

# Fruits Basket

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The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



18

MANGA TOKYO

# Fruits Basket™

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in America!



18

Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

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MITSUKI TUKUYA

# Fruits Basket

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shojo manga  
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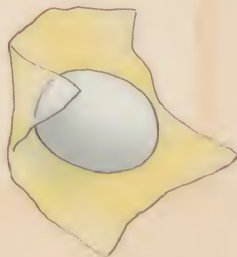


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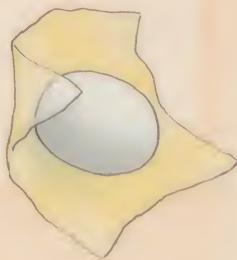
MUSASHI TANIYA



As rumors swirl about Machi trying to kill her little brother, Kakeru figures that the only person who can get the truth out of her is Yuki. But when the two of them visit her, they learn a shocking secret. Later, Motoko wants to tell Yuki her feelings before she graduates and leaves the school—and him—forever. But will their parting be such sweet sorrow? You'll just have to find out in this next volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*, the winner of Best Manga at the inaugural American Anime Awards Show!



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ISBN 978-1-59816-862-4

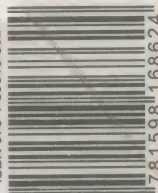


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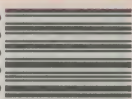




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# Fruits Basket™

## Volume 18



Natsuki Takaya

# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, that person changes into his or her Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket™

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# Fruits Basket Characters

## Mabudachi Trio



### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

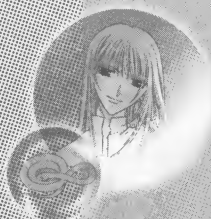
### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen. . .er, king. Runs a costume shop.

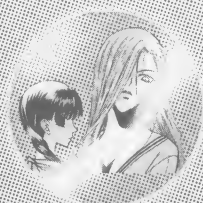


### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



### Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

### Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school, he's called "Prince Yuki."



### Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

### Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters

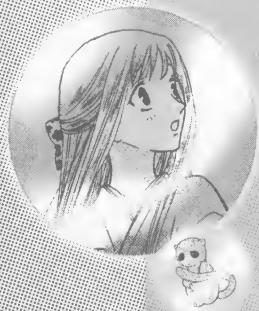
## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy, kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Cross-dressing calms his nerves.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



## Kureno Sohma, the Rooster (or bird)

He is Akito's very favorite, and spends almost all of his time on the Sohma estate, tending to Akito's every desire. Kureno was born possessed by the spirit of the Bird, but his curse broke long ago...which means we've never seen him transformed. He pities Akito's loneliness, and can't bring himself to leave her.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.



## Akito Sohma

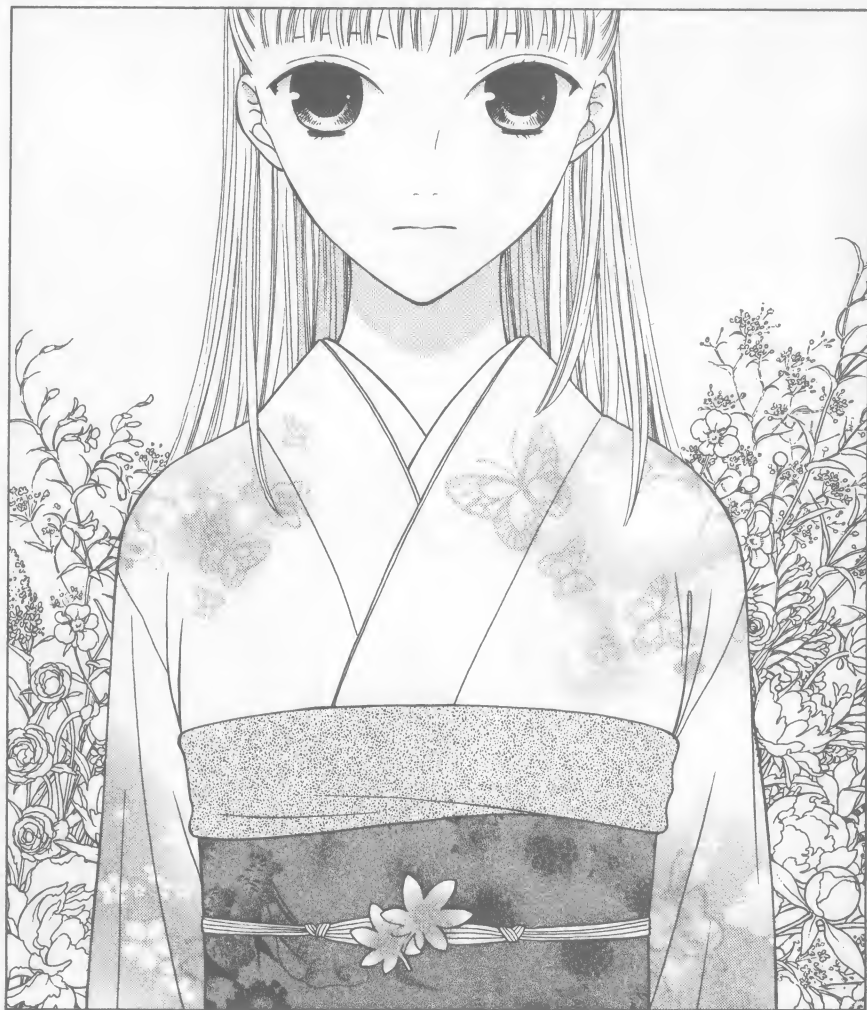
The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence. It has recently been revealed that Akito is actually a woman!

## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



"God"



Chapter 102

# Fruits Basket







I HATE  
IT.

CAN YOU  
BELIEVE  
IT?

GRADUATION  
IS ALMOST  
HERE.

JEEZ.

\*Student Council Room



YOU'RE  
STUPID!

WHAT'S YOUR  
PROBLEM?  
YOU'RE SO  
DIFFICULT.

You're  
not me.



HM? OH,  
RIGHT.

BUT  
YOU'RE NOT  
GRADUATING  
YET. ARE  
YOU, NAO?

NAO-CHAN,  
CLOSE THE  
WINDOW!  
IT'S  
TOTALLY  
COLD.

They organized the reference room together.

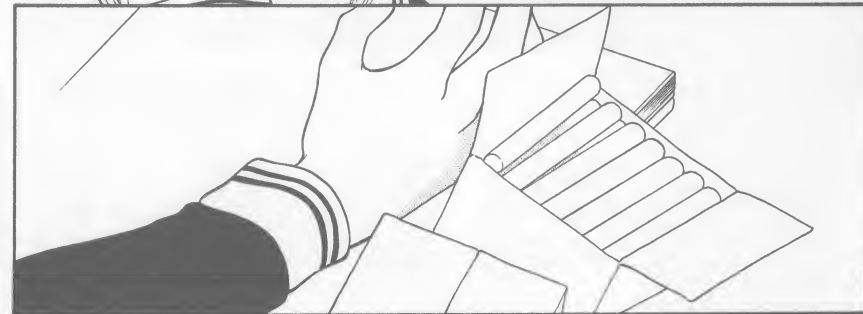


I HATE IT  
WHEN SNOW  
BUILDS UP.

ALL  
THAT WHITE,  
SPREAD OVER  
EVERYTHING...



THE  
"PERFECTION"  
THAT EXPANDS  
UNDISTURBED.



IT'S  
ALMOST  
SPRING...

...BUT  
THE  
SNOW  
STILL  
FELL.

## Fruits Basket 18

Nice to meet you and hello. This is Takaya speaking. Starting here, I'm going to try giving up handwritten columns. What do you think? Is it a little easier to read now...?

I apologize for always having such messy, tiny handwriting...

Anyway, I present to you Volume 18.

That was fast, huh?

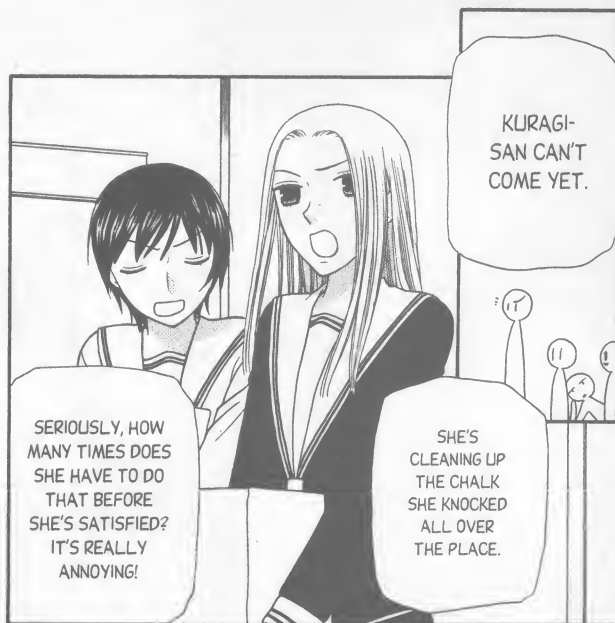
The cover is Shishou-san. He's gotten pretty popular.

He's an overly fond parent. (laughs)

His over-fondness may actually come from his thoughts of, "As long as Kyo is happy, that's enough for me." (laughs)

Although I think he might be more motherly than fatherly.

At any rate, please enjoy Furuba 18.







AH!

KURAGI-SAN...!

Uh-oh.



I HEARD SHE GOT THROWN OUT OF HER HOUSE BECAUSE SHE TRIED TO KILL HER LITTLE BROTHER!



JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, KURAGI-SAN SMACKED A WHOLE BOX OF CHALK ONTO THE FLOOR.

AGAIN?



TO BE HONEST, KURAGI-SAN SCARES ME.

YEAH!



you STOPPED BELIEVING IN HER ALREADY?!

It can't be. Kimi believed in you...!



SHE RAN AWAY.



DID YOU SEE THAT? SHE RAN AWAY BECAUSE IT'S TOTALLY TRUE!

IF YOU'RE DONE HERE, JUST GET OUT. You're in the way!



I Don't believe that.

It can't be true...

Kimi will always believe in Machi...!



HUH? WHAT, WHAT?

KIMI NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

IT'S A RUMOR THAT'S BEEN GOING AROUND.

I BET IT'S TRUE!



MACHI'S  
GOT A  
LITTLE  
BROTHER.



WELL...  
TO BE  
FAIR, HE'S  
HALF  
MINE, TOO.

THE  
TYKE'S  
A LOT  
YOUNGER  
THAN WE  
ARE.

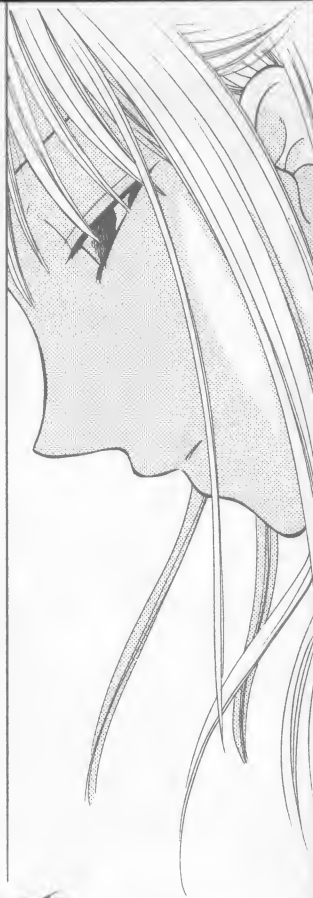
EVERYONE'S  
ALREADY  
DECIDED  
THAT HE'S  
THE HEIR OF  
THE FAMILY.

IT'S  
ACTUALLY  
...

...PRETTY  
CLOSE  
TO THE  
TRUTH.



...Y'KNOW  
THAT  
STUFF  
THOSE  
GIRLS  
WERE  
SAYING?



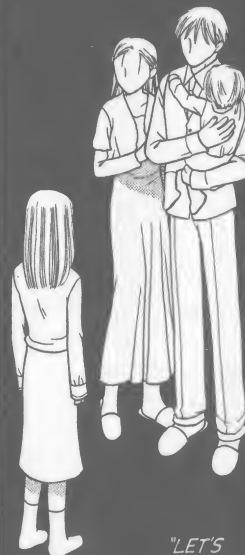
"YES, IT'S  
FOR YOUR  
OWN GOOD."

"I'M SURE  
YOU'LL DO  
BETTER ON  
YOUR OWN."



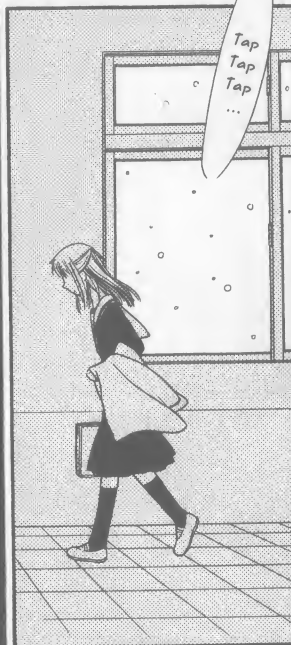
"YOU'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN  
JEALOUS OF  
HIM, HAVEN'T  
YOU?"

"I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
THAT MIGHT  
BE THE  
CASE."



"LET'S  
PUT SOME  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
YOU TWO."

"IT'S FOR  
YOUR OWN  
GOOD."



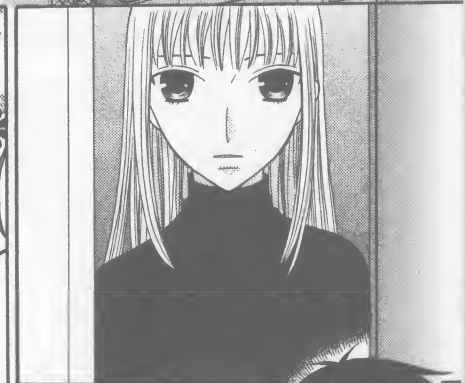
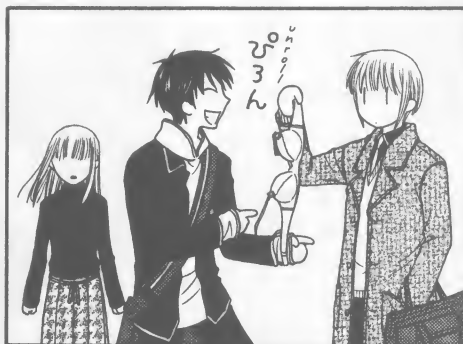
Tap  
Tap  
Tap  
...



"I DON'T  
WANT TO  
HEAR YOUR  
EXCUSES."









I DON'T CARE.

...PLEASE, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

YOU CAN BELIEVE IT.

OR DON'T. I DON'T CARE.

THEN YOU CAME TO ASK ABOUT WHAT THOSE GIRLS SAID.

THE ONES FROM MY CLASS.

FINE.



...TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW.

SO I WON'T TRY...

NOT EVEN MY PARENTS.

NO ONE BELIEVED ME.



...HATE THINGS THAT ARE IN ORDER, MACHI?

DO YOU...

I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.



HOW WAS THAT MY FAULT?!

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY MORE.



I WON'T, SINCE I'M NOT YOU.

DON'T DO ANYTHING PERVY, YUN-YUN!



BUT IT IS PRETTY DANGEROUS TO HAVE THINGS LIKE GLASS ON THE FLOOR.

ER, NO.

Tidying up isn't my strong suit, either.

DID YOU... COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO CLEAN?



ALL RIGHT.

I'M OFF TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH.





I FELT LIKE...

...I WAS BEING THREATEN-ED.

I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS.

I COULDN'T BREATHE.

I COULDN'T STAND IT...!

...NERVOUS.

IF I HAD THE SLIGHTEST IMPERFECTION, I WOULD GET IN TROUBLE.



IT WAS LIKE I WAS BEING TOLD TO WALK A THIN, THIN THREAD.

I WAS ALWAYS ...

"BE PERFECT"

"PERFECT AT ALL TIMES"

"A PERFECT CHARACTER A PERFECT SCHOOL RECORD"

"IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN AGAINST THAT WOMAN'S SON"

"EVEN YOUR FATHER WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOU."



SNOWY ROADS.

ORGANIZED ROOMS. STUFF LIKE THAT.

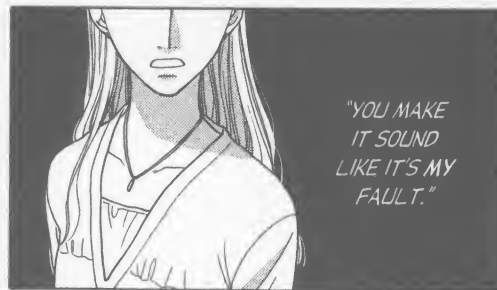
DO YOU HATE "PERFECTION"?

IT...

IT SCARES ME!

YES...

y...



"YOU MAKE  
IT SOUND  
LIKE IT'S MY  
FAULT."



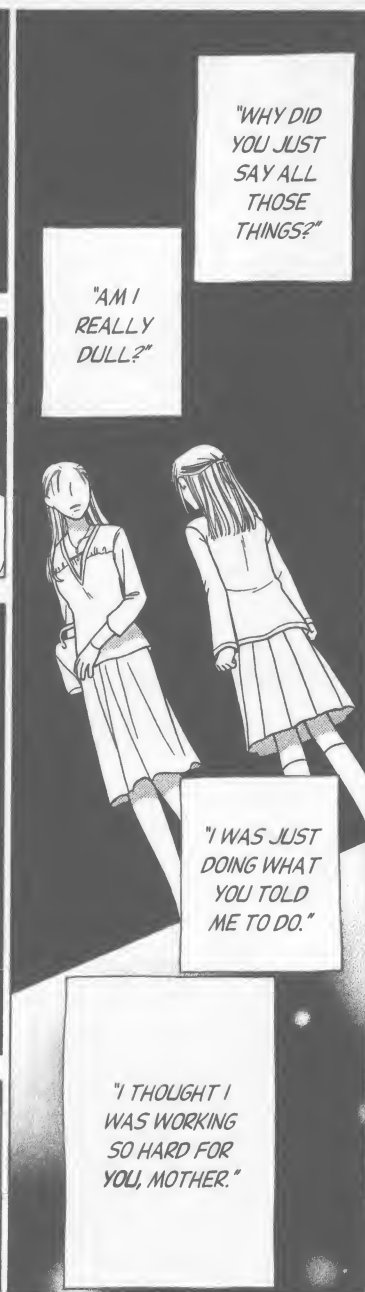
"WHEN YOU SAY  
IT THAT WAY,  
IT'S LIKE I DID  
SOMETHING  
WRONG."



"...HMPH."

"BUT IT  
MIGHT BE  
MY FAULT."

"MAYBE  
THERE WAS  
SOMETHING  
WRONG WITH  
THE WAY I  
RAISED YOU."



"AM I  
REALLY  
DULL?"

"WHY DID  
YOU JUST  
SAY ALL  
THOSE  
THINGS?"

"I WAS JUST  
DOING WHAT  
YOU TOLD  
ME TO DO."

"I THOUGHT I  
WAS WORKING  
SO HARD FOR  
YOU, MOTHER."



BUT...

...I WAS  
DESPERATE TO  
LIVE UP TO HER  
EXPECTATIONS.

THERE  
WAS A  
TIME...

...WHEN,  
DESPITE  
THAT...



"YOU SEE?  
SHE HAS NO  
INDIVIDUALITY--  
SHE'S SUCH A  
DULL CHILD."

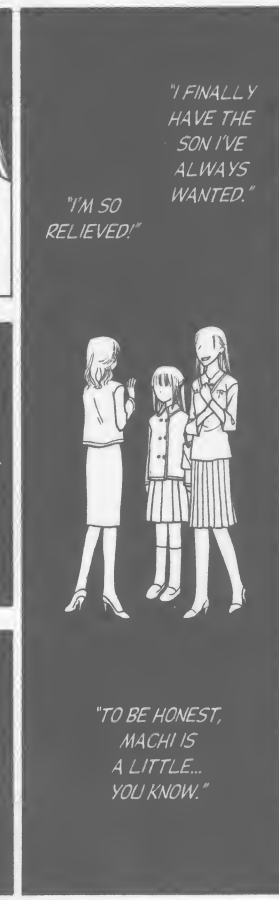


"SHE'S  
AVERAGE IN  
EVERYTHING,  
AND NOTHING  
ABOUT HER  
STANDS  
OUT."



"WHY?"

"ALL SHE CAN  
DO IS STUDY.  
IT'S SUCH A  
WASTE."



"I FINALLY  
HAVE THE  
SON I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED."

"I'M SO  
RELIEVED!"

"TO BE HONEST,  
MACHI IS  
A LITTLE...  
YOU KNOW."



BUT  
NOW...

...SHE  
HAS MY  
LITTLE  
BROTHER.

I...

"THANK  
GOODNESS."



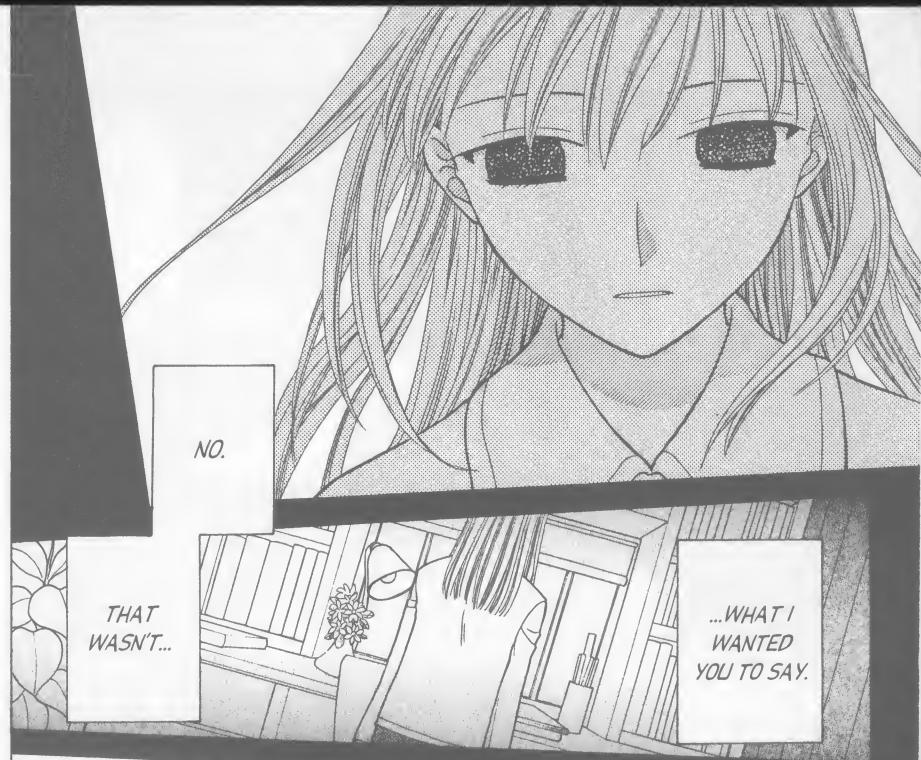
WHERE...

...SHOULD  
I GO?

YOU'VE  
WORKED  
VERY  
HARD...



...HAVEN'T  
YOU?



NO.

THAT  
WASN'T...

...WHAT I  
WANTED  
YOU TO SAY.



WHAT  
SHOULD  
I, THE  
"MISTAKE,"  
DO?

WHAT CAN  
I DO?

THAT'S  
NOT IT.

IF YOU  
SAY IT  
LIKE  
THAT...

...I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
TO DO.





I'M...

IMPERFECT.



WARPED.

A  
WASTE.



AND YET...



I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
THE DAY  
WOULD  
COME.



I NEVER  
THOUGHT...

...I'D BE  
PRAISED.



THE DAY  
WHEN I'D BE  
PRAISED.



AND NOW THE  
MACHI I KNOW  
EXISTS ON  
THIS EARTH.

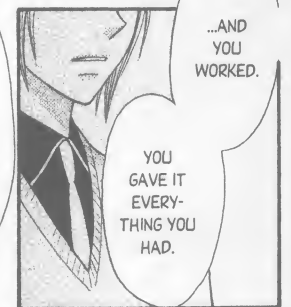
THAT  
MAKES  
ME  
HAPPY.



YOU REALLY  
GAVE IT  
EVERYTHING  
YOU HAD,  
DIDN'T YOU?



YOU  
WORKED...



...AND  
YOU  
WORKED.

YOU  
GAVE IT  
EVERY-  
THING YOU  
HAD.

BUT I WAS  
NEVER  
JEALOUS...

...OF MY  
BABY  
BROTHER!

BUT...

*I DON'T WANT  
TO HEAR YOUR  
EXCUSES...*

*I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
THAT MIGHT  
BE THE  
"CASE"*

THEY'D  
ALREADY  
DECIDED  
...

...ON  
HOW I  
FELT.

NOTHING  
COULD GET  
THROUGH TO THEM.

OKAY...

...THERE WAS  
SOMEONE WHO  
WOULD STILL  
PRAISE ME.

"WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!"

I DIDN'T  
MEAN  
TO...!

I WAS  
JUST...

I WAS JUST  
TRYING TO  
COVER MY  
SLEEPING  
BROTHER.

I THOUGHT  
HE'D CATCH  
A COLD.

...PUTTING  
A BLANKET  
ON HIM.

...COLD!

I  
THOUGHT  
HE MIGHT  
BE...

I...

I...



I  
PROMISE.



OKAY.





ALSO.

Snap

ABOUT CLUB  
ACTIVITIES  
DURING  
SPRING  
BREAK.

WE HAVE  
A LITTLE  
CORRECTION  
TO MAKE.

I WONDER.



WILL HE  
REMEMBER?

UNTIL THE  
NEXT TIME  
IT SNOWS?

I  
WONDER  
IF...

...HE'LL  
WALK  
WITH ME.



THEN  
PLEASE GO  
AHEAD WITH  
THE PLAN.

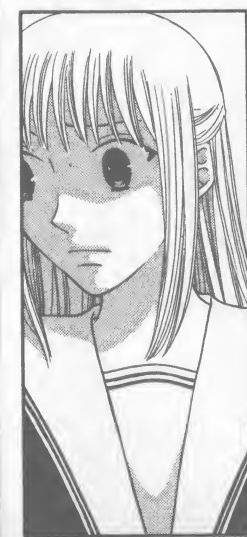
NEXT...

HEY--I  
GOT THE  
NEW  
CHALK  
FOR YOU.

Whisper  
Whisper



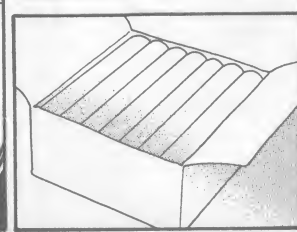
REALLY?!  
YAY!  
♡



BUT KIMI ISN'T IN  
CHARGE OF THE  
BLACKBOARD  
TODAY.

It's Nao-  
chan's turn.

push



THE SNOW  
DIDN'T KEEP  
PILING UP  
AFTER THAT.

AND  
IN ONE  
NIGHT...

...IT ALL  
MELTED  
AWAY.

WOULD  
ANYONE  
ELSE  
LIKE TO  
COMMENT?



Filler  
Sketch



I WISH IT  
WOULD  
PILE UP.

THAT WAS  
THE FIRST  
TIME...

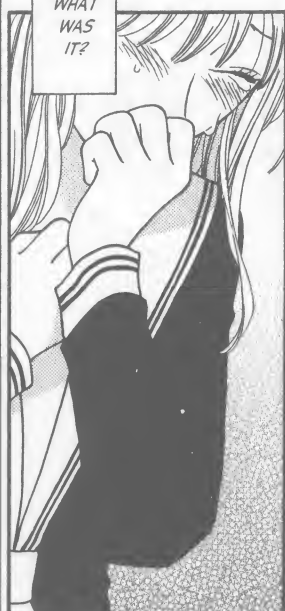
...I  
ACTUALLY  
HOPED  
FOR IT.

MM.

I WISH IT  
WOULD  
SNOW.







Filler Sketch



The day she waited alone.





I'LL BE  
WAITING FOR  
YOU IN THE  
COURTYARD.

WILL YOU  
COME TO  
MEET ME?!

THERE'S  
SOMETHING I'D  
REALLY LIKE  
TO SPEAK WITH  
YOU ABOUT.



OH!  
THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH,  
YUKI!!

y...

AND OF  
COURSE, YOU  
DON'T NEED TO  
WORRY ABOUT  
THE TIME.

...SENPAI.

YES.

*I have plenty  
of free time!*



YUKI.

HOW  
DO YOU  
DO?

YU...

YUKI!!



ANYWAY.

I HAVE A  
FAVOR TO  
ASK YOU,  
YUKI. TODAY,  
AFTER  
SCHOOL...

I MEAN, WHEN  
YOU'RE DONE  
WITH YOUR  
STUDENT-  
COUNCIL  
BUSINESS AND  
EVERYTHING.

THAT'S NOT  
IT, YUKI!! THIS  
IS, I MEAN...  
I HAVE MY  
REASONS...!

MINAGAWA-  
SENPAI?!

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING DOWN  
THERE? ARE  
YOU FEELING  
ALL RIGHT?



I'm really sorry his appearances are being greatly reduced... (present progressive tense)

Ritsu



\*With his father and mother, he's in a family of three.

\*As of Volume 18, he's graduated from college...right?

\*In Chapter 44, Shigure commented that he would be a member of society soon, I think. (Why do you have such little confidence?)

\*He's currently in training to inherit the inn.

\*I wonder if he'll be okay....

\*I mean, there aren't lady innkeepers, are there? (You can ask, but...)

\*That's why he's rarely at the main estate these days.

\*I wonder if it's a problem that Ritschan is so uninvolved with the problems occurring at the main estate? (laughs)

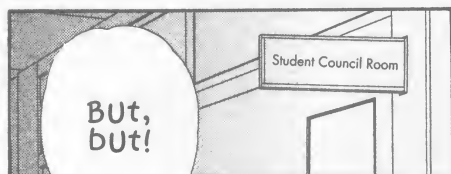
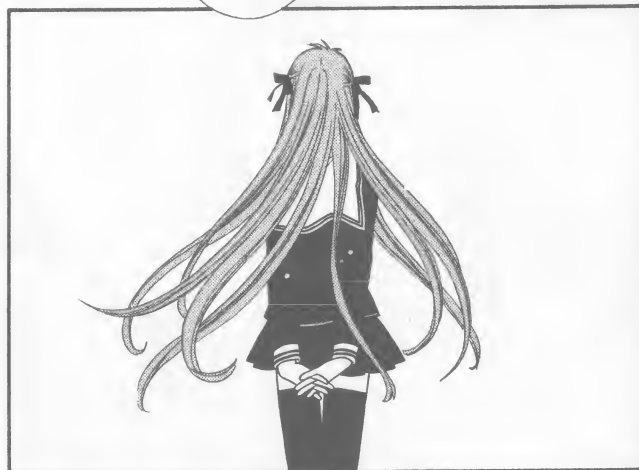
← To be continued



WHAT, YOU JUST FIGURED OUT NOW HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT YOU?

I'M SO... DENSE.

YOU'RE MORE THAN DENSE, MAN.



But, but!



WHAT'S ALL THIS, YUN-YUN?

YOU'VE GOTTEN ANOTHER SUMMONS?

But you're the princess. The nerve!



WELL THEN.

I'LL BE WAITING, YUKI!



THANKS.

HOW DO YOU DO, MANABE-SAN, SAKURAGI-KUN?

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR STUDENT-COUNCIL DUTIES.





ARE YOU JEALOUS OF YUKI'S POPULARITY BECAUSE YOU'RE UNPOPULAR YOURSELF? CHIBI!

WHOOOA. WHAT'S ALL THIS, CHIBI?

STOP CALLING ME CHIBI!



I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT YOU SHOULD THAT KIND OF KARMA.

YOU MAY HURT OTHER PEOPLE...

...BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU'LL STILL BE AT THE TOP OF THE SOCIAL LADDER!



WE'RE NOT SAYING THAT, NAO-CHAN!

IT'S NOT YOUR HEIGHT OR YOUR FACE.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT A MAN'S CHARM IS DETERMINED BY HIS HEIGHT?!

A MAN'S CHARM IS FROM...



IS THAT SO WRONG?! DO SHORT PEOPLE NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO EXIST?!

I DIDN'T... SAY ANYTHING.

You have a sister?

SO I'M SHORT! SO I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TALLER THAN MY SISTER!



It's really terrible!

AND THAT CONCLUDES THE REPORT FROM KIMI-SAN, WHO'S CURRENTLY WORN OUT FROM THE RUSH OF A LOVE CONFESSION.



YOU'VE HAD A GLOOMY FACE THIS WHOLE TIME!

YOU MUST BE HAVING A HARD TIME WITH ALL THE SUMMONS YOU'VE BEEN GETTING THE PAST FEW DAYS, YUN-YUN.



IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T DO ANYTHING...

...BUT HURT THOSE GIRLS.



SHE KNOWS SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE, BUT SHE'S CONFESSING HER LOVE ANYWAY?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S SELFISH?

EH. SHE'LL FEEL BETTER ONCE SHE'S BEEN DUMPED, AND THEN SHE CAN HAVE PEOPLE FEEL BAD FOR HER.

I WISH THEY'D CONSIDER THE FEELINGS OF THOSE FORCED TO PLAY THOSE GAMES!

They make us feel like the bad guys.





COME TO  
THINK OF IT,  
NAO DID SAY  
YUN-YUN'S HIS  
"RIVAL" OR  
SOMETHING.

OH...HE  
DID SAY  
THAT.

AND THAT  
GIRL YOU  
LIKE...

NAO-CHAN, YOU  
MUST HAVE  
A CRUSH ON  
SOME GIRL!

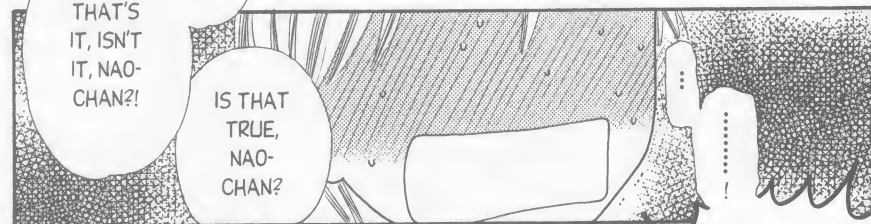
SHE MUST BE  
IN LOVE WITH  
YUN-YUN. THAT  
WOULD MAKE  
YOU JEALOUS!

Right?!

THAT'S  
IT, ISN'T  
IT, NAO-  
CHAN?!

IS THAT  
TRUE,  
NAO-  
CHAN?

WHA?!



THE  
STUPID-  
ITY!



SO IT IS  
TRUE.



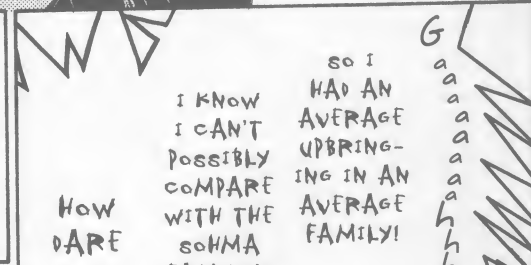
...the  
size  
of his  
wallet.



WHAT?

IT'LL BE  
YOUR  
MONEY  
SOMEDAY!

IT WON'T...  
I MEAN,  
SURE, BUT...



How  
DARE  
YOU  
QUIBBLE!

SO I  
HAD AN  
AVERAGE  
UPBRING-  
ING IN AN  
AVERAGE  
FAMILY!



...I'M SORRY. I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO  
ANYMORE.

AND NOW  
YOU'RE  
BRAGG-  
ING!

WHO  
WOULD?

You can't win  
with this guy.



THE FACT THAT  
IT'S THE SOHMA'S  
PROPERTY  
DOESN'T MAKE  
IT MINE.





Who? I don't believe you!

Oh, too bad! We're still madly in love!

But didn't your girlfriend dump you?

You say that, Kakaru.



Just ask Yun-Yun. Yun-Yun'll tell you.

Your eyes must be defective, Kakaru!

That's ridiculous!

I can't help it. She's so much easier than you, Kimi-chan.

I don't know what you see in her.



"THE CAT IS AN IDIOT."

I GUESS THAT'S KARMA FOR YOU.

...HUNH.



MACHI!!

Yun-Yun  
Likes  
Kimi,  
right?  
♡



WHEN THE DAY COMES...

...AND I GRADUATE...

No. Machi, are you okay?!

Don't pick on people who don't fight back, Kimi-chan.

OOH... ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT KIMI?

KIMI, DON'T DO THAT. SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET HURT!



I GUESS NAO SEES YOU AS THE BAD GUY RIGHT NOW, YUKI.



YOU'RE NOT A "GOOD GUY," AND NOTHING COULD MAKE YOU ONE. HE WON'T SEE YOU AS ANYTHING BUT A BAD GUY.

WHEN A GUY'S STARTED THINKING LIKE THAT, BELIEVE ME--NOTHING YOU CAN SAY COULD HELP.



THAT WENT REALLY BADLY. LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR A WHILE.

I WONDER WHICH GIRL NAO-CHAN LIKES!



SO HE WON'T SEE ME...

What? Kakaru, are you jealous? Eek!

What? Eek, Kimi! Are flowers blooming inside your head?



...AS ANYTHING BUT A BAD GUY...?



I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S NOT YOU, KIMI-CHAN.

OH! COULD it be that nao-chan likes...

...KIMI?



WHAT I  
NEEDED  
TO TELL  
YOU.

WHAT I  
WANTED  
TO TELL  
YOU.

IN THE  
END...



I...I'M  
REALLY  
SORRY!

NOW THAT  
WE'RE  
ACTUALLY  
HERE... I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO SAY.

ISN'T THAT  
AWFUL?  
OH, WOW.

ALL THE  
THINGS I  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT.



AND I  
WON'T  
HAVE DONE  
A THING.

...I'LL JUST  
GRADUATE.



I'M GLAD  
TO HAVE...  
MET YOU,  
YUKI.

I...

I...

...



THAT'S  
WHAT IT  
MEANS...

...TO SAY  
GOODBYE.



THAT'S  
WHAT IT  
MEANS TO  
GRADUATE.



I'LL, UM,  
GET RIGHT  
TO THE  
POINT.

PLEASE,  
DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT!  
I'M SO GLAD  
YOU CAME.

I'M SORRY  
I...KEPT YOU  
WAITING.

BUT  
STILL.



...MY PLACE  
IN THIS  
SCHOOL  
WILL  
DISAPPEAR.

THE HALLS,  
THE SHOE  
RACK, THE  
CLASSROOMS.

EVERYTHING  
THAT'S  
BECOME SO  
FAMILIAR...

...WILL  
BECOME  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S  
PLACE.



...FIND  
YOUR OWN  
HAPPINESS,  
AS WELL.

I'LL BE  
PRAYING.

I WANT  
YOU TO...

AN EVEN  
GREATER  
JOY.

AND IF THAT'S  
THE CASE, I'LL  
JUST PRAY  
THAT YOU'LL  
FIND MORE  
HAPPINESS.

MAYBE  
YOU'RE  
HAPPY  
NOW.


THIS IS  
THE ONLY  
WAY...

YOU GAVE  
ME THAT  
HAPPINESS,  
YUKI.

I'M SURE  
THAT THE  
DAYS I  
SPENT  
HERE...

...ARE WHAT  
THEY CALL  
"HAPPINESS."

...I CAN  
REPAY YOU,  
BUT...



I LOVED  
YOU.

I REALLY  
DID.

THAT'S  
WHY...



BUT AT  
THE  
HEART OF  
IT ALL...

I'M GLAD  
I CAME  
HERE.

TO THIS  
SCHOOL,  
I MEAN.

EVERY DAY  
WAS AS  
EXCITING AS  
A FESTIVAL..  
I GOT ANGRY,  
I LAUGHED...

...YOU  
WERE  
ALWAYS  
THERE,  
YUKI.

...AND I KNOW  
I CAUSED  
A LOT OF  
PROBLEMS.





LET THOSE  
FEELINGS  
REACH HIM.



THANK  
YOU.



YES.

...VERY  
MUCH.

THANK  
YOU...



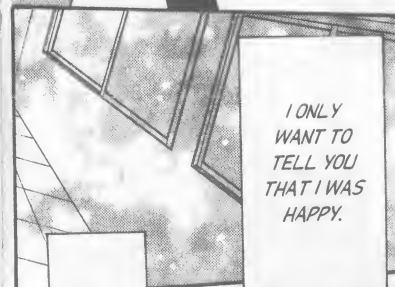
I  
DON'T...



...DESERVE  
THOSE  
FEELINGS.



BUT  
YES.



I ONLY  
WANT TO  
TELL YOU  
THAT I WAS  
HAPPY.



I HAD  
SO MUCH  
FUN.



PLEASE.

I TRULY  
AM GLAD I  
MET YOU.



BUT  
I'M NOT  
STANDING  
HERE...



...BECAUSE  
I WANT MY  
FEELINGS...



...TO BE  
ACCEPTED  
AT THIS  
POINT.

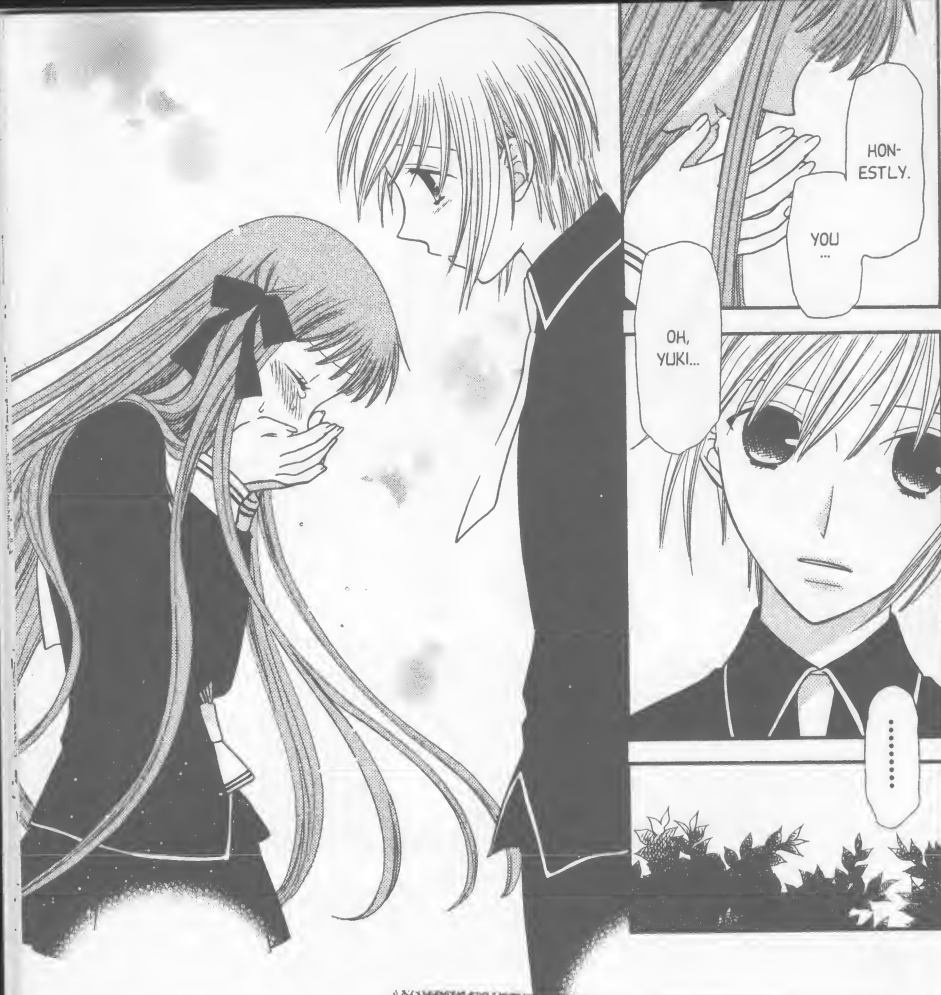


I WANT  
THEM TO  
REACH  
YOU.



I KNOW  
IT'S TOO  
LATE.





THANK  
YOU.



HON-  
ESTLY.

YOU

OH,  
YUKI...

.....

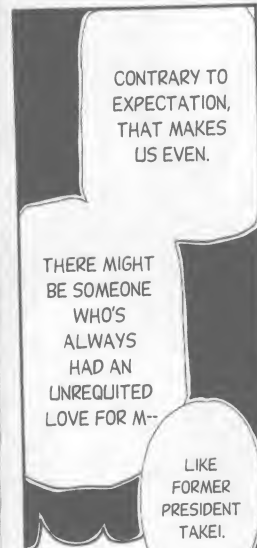


WAIT,  
YUKI!

Ack!

I'M  
SORRY.

I NEVER  
REALIZED...



CONTRARY TO  
EXPECTATION,  
THAT MAKES  
US EVEN.

THERE MIGHT  
BE SOMEONE  
WHO'S  
ALWAYS  
HAD AN  
UNREQUITED  
LOVE FOR M--

LIKE  
FORMER  
PRESIDENT  
TAKEI.

HE'S  
COMPLETELY  
OUT OF THE  
QUESTION!



HA  
HA.



I'M FEELING  
WONDERFUL  
FOR SOME  
REASON!

YOU WOULD  
SPOIL THAT  
IF YOU  
APOLOGIZED! IF  
YOU APOLOGIZE,  
I'LL CRY!

I'll cry so  
hard!

HUH?  
WHAT--?

BESIDES!



DO YOU  
REGRET  
LEAVING?

HEY.



SWSH

I'LL GET  
GOING  
NOW.

MI...



YOU  
FOUND  
ME.

I'M SORRY--  
I JUST WANTED  
TO SEE THE  
CLASSROOM ONE  
LAST TIME.



THANK  
YOU...





...YOU FIND  
SOMETHING  
NEW!

EVEN WHEN  
YOU LEAVE  
SOMETHING...



I'M  
HOPING  
FOR YOU.

EVEN  
AFTER YOU  
GRADUATE.

FROM  
NOW  
ON...

I HOPE  
YOU'LL BE  
OKAY.

I WANT YOU  
TO KEEP  
SMILING SO  
BRIGHTLY.



GO AHEAD  
AND SAY  
GOODBYE.

WHAT COMES  
NEXT IS  
"NICE TO  
MEET YOU!"

SO...



I'VE...

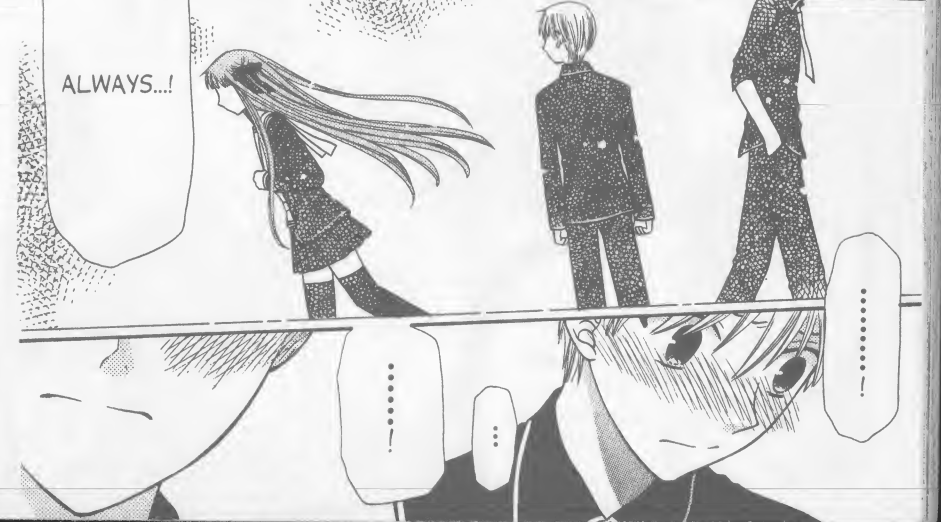
...ALWAYS...

I'VE  
ALWAYS...

I...!

I...

MINAGAWA-  
SENPAI!



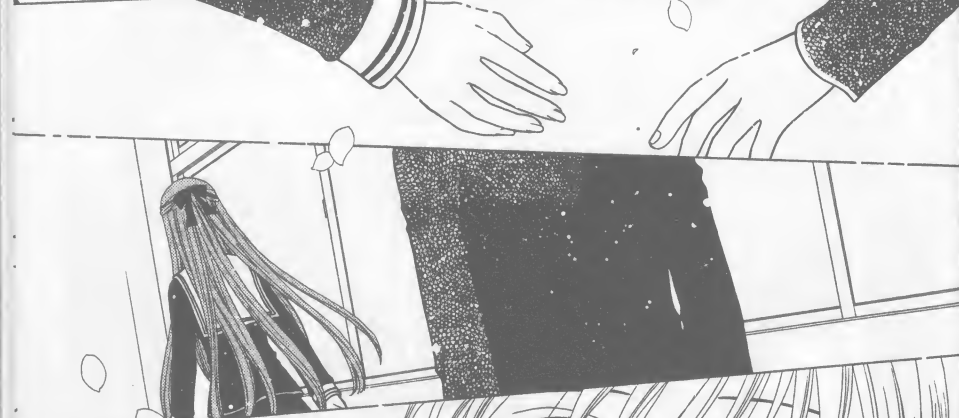
ALWAYS...!

.....  
!





AND  
THANK  
YOU!



SAKURAGI-  
KUN.



ALL  
RIGHT.



YOU  
TAKE  
CARE,  
TOO.



I'LL BE  
PRAYING.





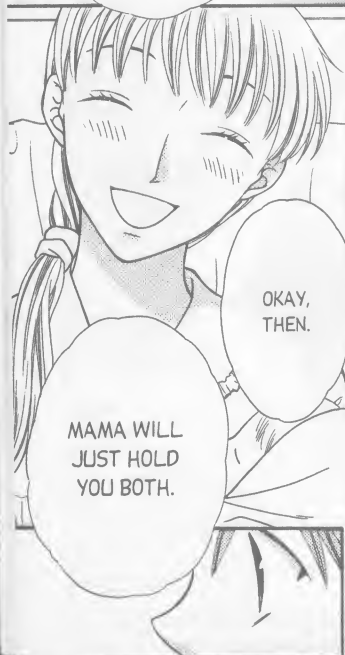
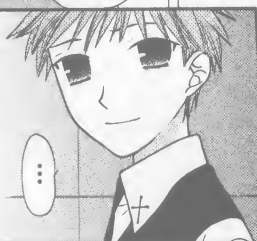
HIRO-CHAN IS NAMED AFTER A LIGHT ON THE PATH, SO YOUR SISTER CAN BE HINATA.\*

*\*Hinata means "place in the sun."*

HIRO AND HINATA! ISN'T THAT CUTE?

*Your papa and I had to brainstorm on that.*

HINATA-CHAAAAN... THIS IS YOUR BROTHER. HE'S GOING TO BE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL THIS YEAR.



MAMA WILL JUST HOLD YOU BOTH.

OKAY, THEN.

HERE, HIRO-CHAN. WHY DON'T YOU HOLD HER?

I-I CAN'T DO THAT!

HINATA'S A GIRL! THAT'S NOT GONNA...

AND NICE TO MEET YOU.



OH, HEY.

NAO-CHAN'S HERE.

WHAT'S UP, NAO-CHAN? DIDJA COOL OFF YOUR MELON?

*What's wrong with you?*

MY MELON IS ALWAYS COOL!

MORE IMPORTANTLY, PRESIDENT--DID YOU FINISH ALL THAT WORK YOU HAD TO DO?!

OF COURSE. THANK YOU.

GOODBYE.



BUT NO ONE  
CAN TELL  
ME WHAT  
HOSPITAL  
SHE'S IN.

THAT'S  
WHAT I  
HEAR.

IS ISUZU  
REALLY  
IN THE  
HOSPITAL?

OR  
HOW TO  
CONTACT  
HER.

KAGURA.



OF  
COURSE  
SHE DID.

I  
JUST...

I'M  
AFRAID.

Y'KNOW?



DIDN'T  
YOUR  
MOTHER  
EVER TELL  
YOU...

...NOT  
TO POKE  
YOUR NOSE  
WHERE IT  
DOESN'T  
BELONG?



AFTER  
EVERYTHING...

ISUZU  
GRADUATED  
HIGH SCHOOL  
WHILE SHE  
WAS IN THE  
HOSPITAL.

REALLY?  
WOW.



HEY...

THANK  
YOU,  
SHII-CHAN.

AND YOU  
ACCEPTED HER  
DIPLOMA IN  
HER PLACE?

YOU'RE A  
SWEETHEART,  
KAGURA.



## Chapter 104







HINATA-CHAN IS A SUPERSTAR IN OUR HOUSE.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S A GIRL. PAPA AND HIRO AND I ARE SO HAPPY!



HE'S TAKING HIS "BIG BROTHER" ROLE VERY SERIOUSLY NOW.

OH, IT'S FINE-- HIRO-CHAN IS WITH HER!

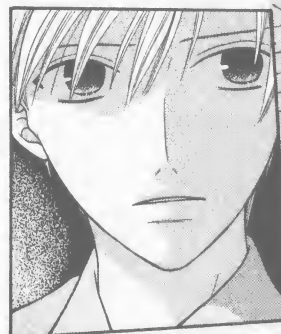
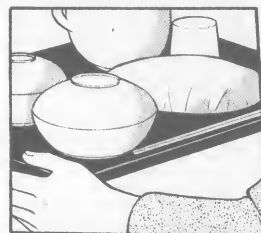
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE AWAY FROM HER?



HE'S SUCH A RELIABLE BOY.



HINATA-CHAN MIGHT DEVELOP A BROTHER COMPLEX. HA HA!



...YES.



Continued →

• It's not that I want to keep Ritchan out of the story--there's just nowhere for me to fit him in...

• When he was a boy, he had the Mabudachi trio to play with.

• He's also been friends with Kagura since they were little.

• Things are going well with him and Mitchan.

• Maybe Mitchan will be the lady innkeeper? I wonder if she'd be all right...



HEY, DO YOU HAVE A SECOND?

I was looking for you.

HARU!



HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING?

LIKE WHICH HOSPITAL SHE'S IN, HER CONDITION...



OKAY. WHAT?

IT'S ABOUT RIN.




PEOPLE ARE SAYING SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL.



What do you want?

• I don't think there's any question--Hinata will probably develop a brother complex. (laughs)

Hiro. 

• With his father, mother, himself and Hinata (his little sister), he's in a family of four.

• He's become a first-year in middle school and gotten a bit taller.

← To be continued



I DON'T KNOW.

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S STAYING THERE ESPECIALLY LONG THIS TIME.



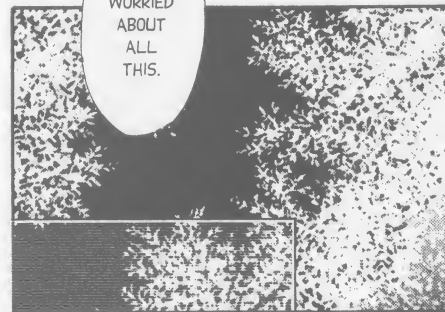
I WANTED HER TO SEE HINATA-CHAN...

I HEAR SHE COULDN'T ATTEND HER HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION.



MM.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT ALL THIS.



COME TO THINK OF IT...



WHEN DO YOU THINK ISUZU-CHAN WILL BE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL?

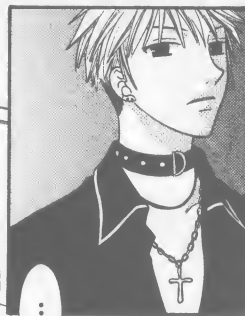


NO. I DON'T  
THINK  
ANYONE  
DOES.

BUT I DON'T  
REALLY...  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.

HUH?

YOU MEAN...  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW  
WHERE SHE  
IS? OR HER  
CONDITION?



OH.



ARE YOU  
OKAY?

DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?

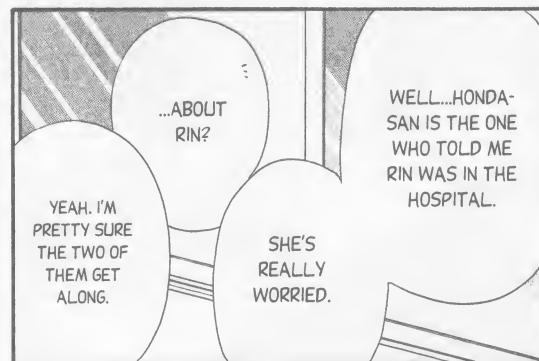
HARU...



Hey!

THE  
MYSTERY  
DEEPENS.

DON'T  
CALL IT A  
MYSTERY,  
OKAY?

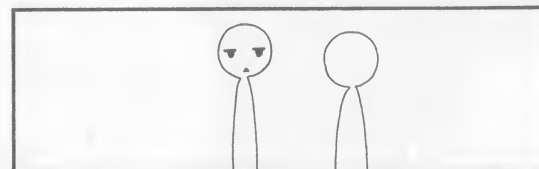


...ABOUT  
RIN?

YEAH. I'M  
PRETTY SURE  
THE TWO OF  
THEM GET  
ALONG.

SHE'S  
REALLY  
WORRIED.

WELL...HONDA-  
SAN IS THE ONE  
WHO TOLD ME  
RIN WAS IN THE  
HOSPITAL.



WHY?



...UNEASY,  
IN A WAY.



"IF IT  
WOULDN'T BE  
ANY TROUBLE,  
I THOUGHT I  
WOULD AT  
LEAST GO  
SEE HER."

じゅん  
Gaze...

SHE  
SEEMED...

UM, RIGHT. SO  
ANYWAY, HONDA-  
SAN IS WORRIED.



RIN...YOU'VE  
MADE A  
FRIEND.

HUHH.



IF THINGS  
GET REALLY  
HOPELESS...

...JUST  
COMFORT  
HER.

TELL  
HONDA-  
SAN  
THANK  
YOU.

HARU.

ANYWAY.

I'LL LET  
YOU KNOW  
IF I HEAR  
ANYTHING.



"...I'M  
OKAY."

"YOU'RE  
HERE,  
HARU."

"SO  
IT'S...  
OKAY."



"...NEED  
YOU  
ANYMORE."

"I  
DON'T..."

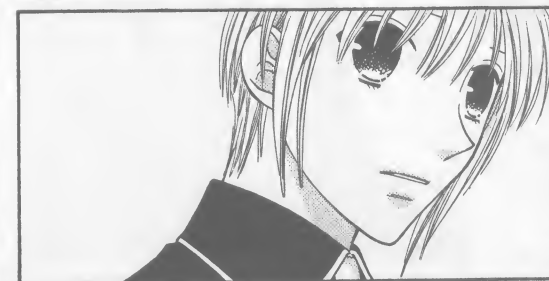


"I'M  
OKAY."



MAYBE  
SOMETHING  
HAS BEEN  
WRONG.

WITH  
ME.



MAYBE  
SOMETHING'S  
WRONG  
WITH ME.

HUNH.

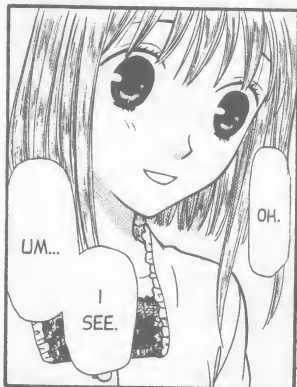
HARU...?





OH...  
I STOPPED  
BY KAGURA-  
NEE'S HOUSE.

I THOUGHT  
RIN MIGHT  
BE BACK.



U.M...

I  
SEE.

OH.

IS EVERYTHING  
OKAY? YOU'RE  
STILL IN YOUR  
UNIFORM.

YEAH. I WAS  
JUST THINKING  
ABOUT  
VISITING  
YOUR HOUSE,  
HIRO-CHAN!



HUH?  
KISA.

YOU'RE  
HOME  
ALREADY?



THANKS,  
I'M SURE  
SHE'LL  
LOVE IT.

Wow.

I WANTED  
TO GIVE  
HINATA-  
CHAN A CD.

IT'S FILLED  
WITH  
CHILDREN'S  
SONGS. DO YOU  
THINK SHE'LL  
UNDERSTAND  
THEM YET?



Yeah!

COME ON--YOU  
CAME TO SEE  
HINATA, RIGHT?

SHE WASN'T  
BACK  
YET. BUT  
WHATEVER.



HIRO-  
CHAN!

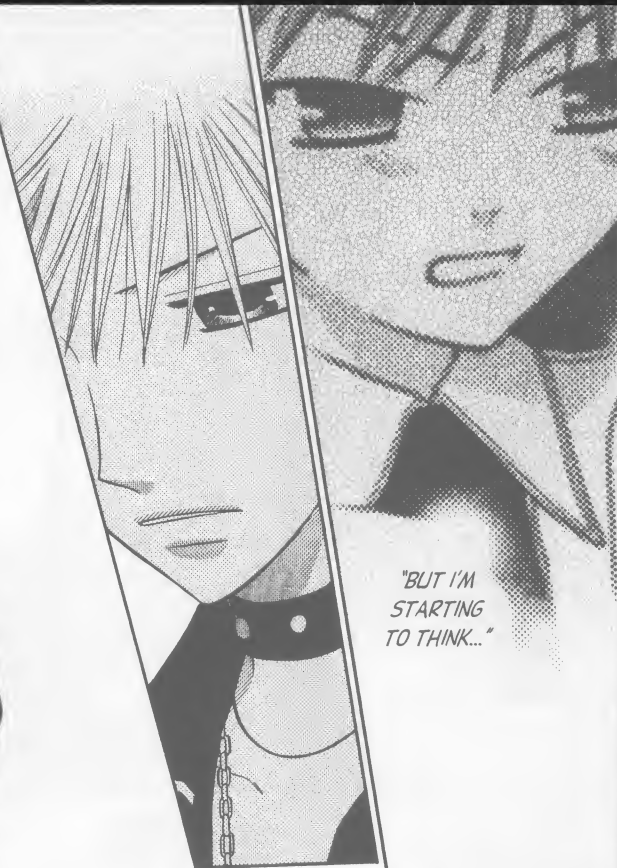
OH!

草摩  
Sohma

"...THAT KINDNESS  
IS WHAT MADE  
RIN SO SAD."



"BUT I'M  
STARTING  
TO THINK..."





AND  
STUPID,  
Y'KNOW?

THINGS  
LIKE  
VANITY AND  
FEAR...

IT  
MAKES  
ME  
WORRY.

ALL  
THE  
TIME.

IT MAKES  
ME FEEL  
SO SMALL.

AND  
I'M NOT  
THERE  
YET.

...WHO CAN  
REALLY  
PROTECT  
HER.

I WANNA  
BE  
SOMEONE...

THAT'S  
WHY--  
WELL, I GUESS  
NOT EXACTLY  
WHY, BUT  
STILL...

I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU  
SOMETHING,  
KISA.

I  
WANTED...

LOOK.

...  
REALIZING  
THAT  
AGAIN.

YEAH.

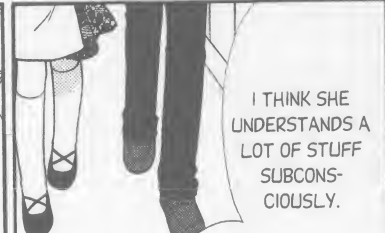
I'M  
JUST...



I DUNNO.

BUT...  
YEAH.

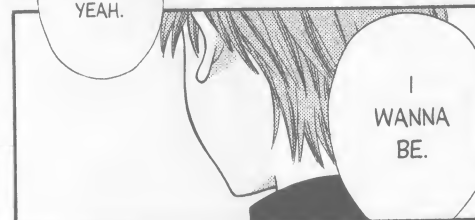
Hee  
hee.  
WHEN SHE  
DOES, I THINK  
YOU'LL BE AN  
EVEN MORE  
RELIABLE BIG  
BROTHER.



I THINK SHE  
UNDERSTANDS A  
LOT OF STUFF  
SUBCONSCIOUSLY.

AND EVEN  
THOUGH SHE'S  
PROBABLY  
GOT A WHILE  
BEFORE SHE'LL  
SHOW A LOT  
OF DIFFERENT  
EMOTIONS...

...I WONDER  
IF SHE'LL  
SMILE  
SOON.



I  
WANNA  
BE.

IT MAKES  
ME FEEL  
STUPID.

Y'KNOW?



BUT  
WHENEVER  
I SEE  
HINATA...

IT'S  
WEIRD.



SHE'S  
RIGHT IN  
FRONT OF  
ME.

AND  
SHE'S  
STILL  
LIKE  
THAT.

AND IT'S  
RIGHT IN  
FRONT OF  
ME.

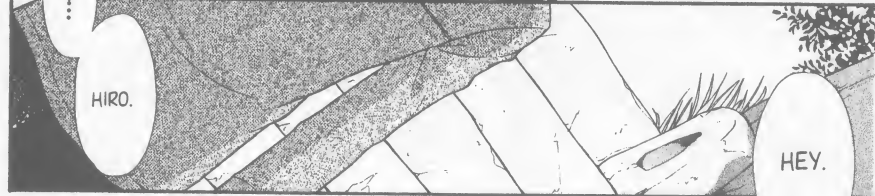
AND IT  
DOESN'T  
KNOW THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
GOOD AND  
EVIL.

THERE'S  
A NEW  
LIFE IN MY  
HOUSE...



AL-  
THOUGH  
...

...MAYBE  
IT'S NOT  
ANY OF MY  
BUSINESS.



HIRO.

HEY.



WAS  
SHE  
HURT?



...SAD?



WAS  
RIN...



DON'T TELL  
ME YOU'RE NOT  
PAYING MORE  
ATTENTION TO  
WHERE YOU'RE  
WALKING WHEN  
YOU'RE SO BIG.

ONII-  
CHAN.

SORRY.

...TO  
APOLO--

OOPS.

HUH?  
OH.

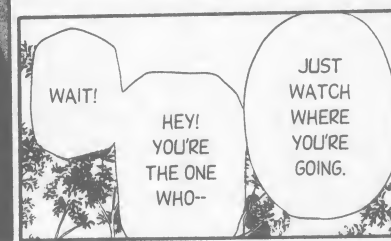


IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR RIN,  
SHE'S NOT  
BACK YET!



NEVER  
MIND.

YOU GUYS  
HAVE  
GOTTEN  
BIG.  
Both  
of you.



WAIT!

HEY!  
YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO--

JUST  
WATCH  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
GOING.

SHE WAS...

HARU-  
NII.

RIN  
WAS...

WHEN  
SHE GOT  
REALLY  
HURT...

...IT  
WASN'T AN  
ACCIDENT.

OKAY?

AKITO  
PUSHED  
HER OUT A  
WINDOW.  
FROM THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR.

AKITO  
FOUND  
OUT  
ABOUT  
YOU AND  
HER.

AND  
HE...

AND...!

ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THAT LAST  
TIME WE...

NO!

I WAS JUST  
TAKING  
THINGS OUT  
ON YOU  
BACK THEN.

LOOK,  
THAT'S  
NOT IT.

HUH?

UH...

I DO KNOW  
SOMETHING.

SHE WAS  
SUFFERING.

BUT...





WHO IS IT?

WHO'S INSIDE?



WHA...?

THIS PLACE.

IT'S AN ISOLATED AREA THAT ONLY CERTAIN "SPECIAL" PEOPLE CAN ENTER.

OTHERS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO GO IN, AND NORMALLY... THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO.



...OH!

Whump

KURENO-SAN?



IF I D-DID SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM ANGRY...

M-MY FATHER...

I-I CAN'T TELL YOU. I'LL GET IN TROUBLE.

HE WAS TAKEN SUCH GOOD CARE OF.

IN TROUBLE? WITH WHOM?

WE'D BE ABANDONED!

I CAN'T TELL YOU.

I CAN'T TELL YOU!



WHY ARE YOU BRINGING FOOD TO A PLACE THAT'S OFF-LIMITS?

YOU...

UM.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

IT'S OFF-LIMITS, ALL RIGHT?

WHO IS IT FOR?

HM?

I'VE SEEN YOU BRING FOOD HERE BEFORE.



I'M  
SORRY.

I  
JUST...

I'VE  
NEEDED TO  
APOLOGIZE.

HE...  
HURT  
YOU.

ALL  
THIS  
TIME.

I MADE  
AKITO  
MAD.

HE ENDED  
UP TAKING  
IT OUT ON  
YOU, KISA.

GO  
AHEAD.

I  
UNDERSTAND  
IF YOU'RE  
MAD AT ME.

I-I  
COULDN'T  
SAY  
ANYTHING.

BOTH OF  
THEM  
SWORE  
ME TO  
SECRECY.

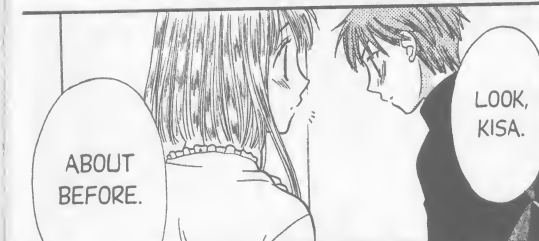
YOU,  
TOO,  
HARU-  
NII.

I'M  
SORRY.



AKITO...

.....



ABOUT  
BEFORE.

LOOK,  
KISA.



WHEN  
AKITO HIT  
YOU.



IT WAS...  
IT WAS MY  
FAULT.



AKITO...



GIVE IT  
TO ME.

THE  
KEY.



...SHE'S  
GOING  
TO DIE!

...EATEN  
ANYTHING.

SHE  
HASN'T...

IN DAYS.

IF THIS  
KEEPS  
UP...



YOU CAN  
TELL  
THEM I  
FORCED  
YOU TO.

I'LL TELL  
THEM THE  
SAME.



THIS  
ISN'T  
OKAY.

SHE...



...RIN BROKE  
UP WITH  
YOU.

AND FROM  
HERSELF.

THAT'S  
WHY...



SHE'S...

SHE'S  
TRYING TO  
FREE YOU...

RIN  
IS...

...HARU-  
NII.

FROM  
AKITO.

SHE'S  
TRYING TO  
BREAK THE  
CURSE!



HARU-  
N...



TELL HER  
IT'S OKAY.

SAY SHE'S  
DONE  
ENOUGH!

...RIN'S  
GONNA  
DESTROY  
HERSELF!

IF SHE  
KEEPS  
THIS UP...

PLEASE.

SHE'LL  
JUST KEEP  
SUFFERING.

HELP  
HER...!

ALONE!





WHY ARE YOU  
APOLOGIZING?!  
THAT'S NOT  
RIGHT!

WHAT?!

IT'S MY  
FAULT  
THAT--

"IT'S OKAY.  
YOU'VE  
DONE  
ENOUGH."



...OKAY,  
HIRO-CHAN.

IT'S...



...YOU  
WERE  
HURTING?

EVEN WHEN  
I WAS  
LAUGHING,  
HIRO-CHAN?

HIRO-  
CHAN.

YOU  
WERE  
WORRIED  
THIS  
WHOLE  
TIME?

DEEP IN  
YOUR  
HEART...

THIS  
WHOLE  
TIME...?

ABOUT  
MY...  
GETTING  
HURT?



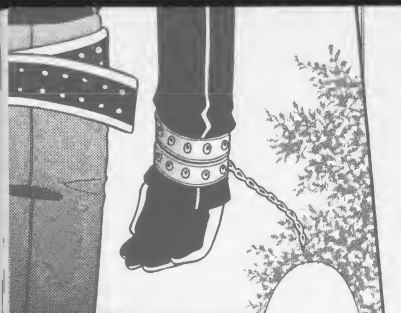
I HAD NO  
IDEA!

I'M  
SORRY.

I WAS ONLY  
TH-THINKING  
ABOUT  
MYSELF.

I'M  
SORRY.

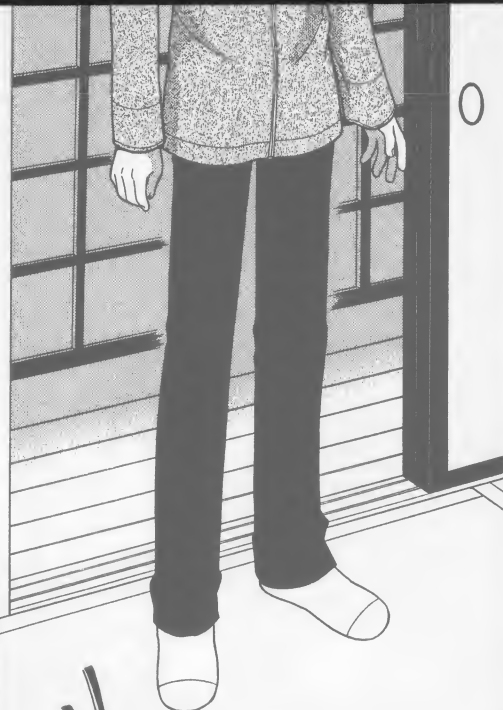
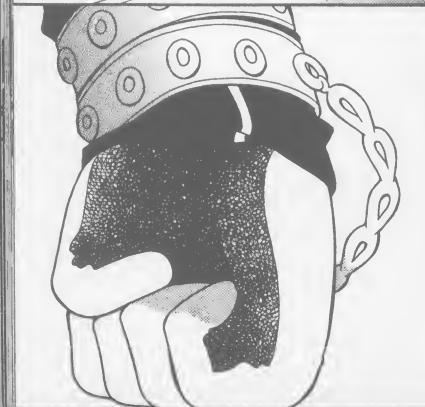




I DUNNO.



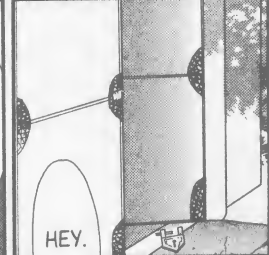
MAN.



WHERE DO  
YOU THINK  
SHE IS  
RIGHT NOW?



ABOUT  
ISUZU-  
ONEECHAN.



HEY.



HIRO-  
CHAN?



## Chapter 105



I JUST  
HOPE SHE...

...COMES  
BACK  
ALL  
RIGHT.



"WHEN  
SHE GOT  
REALLY  
HURT."

"AKITO PUSHED  
HER OUT A  
WINDOW."

"FROM THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR."

"...IT  
WASN'T AN  
ACCIDENT."

HATSUHARU-  
SAN?!

WAIT,  
PLEASE! YOU  
CAN'T JUST--



"AKITO FOUND  
OUT ABOUT  
YOU AND HER."



"AND FROM  
HERSELF."

"SHE'S TRYING  
TO FREE YOU,  
HARU-NII."

"THAT'S WHY..."

"FROM  
AKITO."



Filler  
Sketch



Kaguran having trouble with her hair.

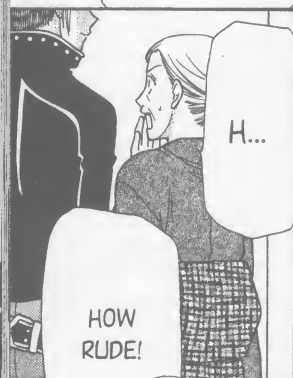




HATSU-  
HARU-  
SAN!

WE UNDERSTAND  
THAT YOU'RE IN  
THE ZODIAC, BUT  
YOU CAN'T JUST  
BARGE IN HERE!

SHUT UP.



HOW  
RUDE!

LEAVE  
HIM.



AND STAY  
OUT OF  
THIS, HAG.



Slam





THAT'S  
NEWS  
TO ME.

WHAT?

WHO TOLD  
YOU THAT?

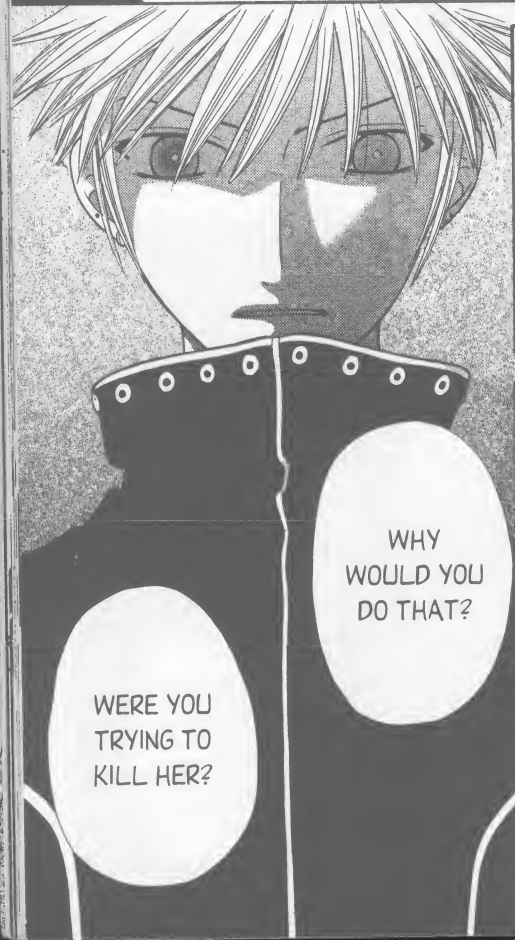
I PUSHED  
ISUZU?

I DID...  
WHAT?



HUH?

THE  
HEAVENS  
REVEALED  
IT.



WHY  
WOULD YOU  
DO THAT?

WERE YOU  
TRYING TO  
KILL HER?

YOU NEVER  
CHANGE,  
DO YOU?  
HA HA!

YOU'RE AS  
DUMB AS  
EVER.

DON'T  
LAUGH.



AS YOU  
WISH.



ALL  
RIGHT.



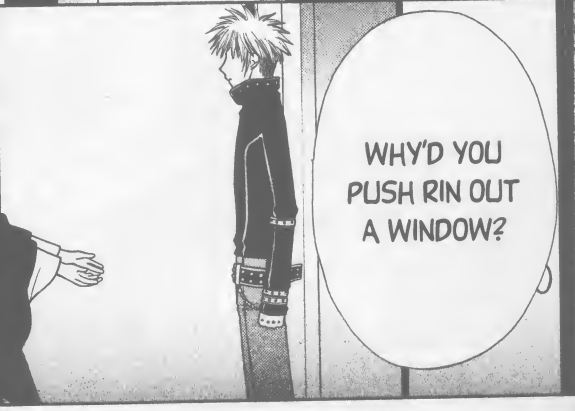
WHAT  
IS IT?



...HAS  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT TO  
TALK ABOUT.

IT LOOKS  
LIKE  
HATSUHARU...

IT'S OKAY.  
HE CAN  
COME IN.



WHY'D YOU  
PUSH RIN OUT  
A WINDOW?



WHY WOULD  
YOU DO  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?



AND I KNOW  
YOU KNEW  
THAT!

DON'T  
PRETEND  
YOU DIDN'T!

BECAUSE I  
LOVE HER!



WHERE'S  
RIN?

WHERE  
IS SHE?

DON'T  
YOU?!

YOU  
KNOW.



YOU'LL  
BELIEVE THE  
HEAVENS, BUT  
YOU WON'T  
BELIEVE  
YOUR GOD.

FINE.

HMPH.



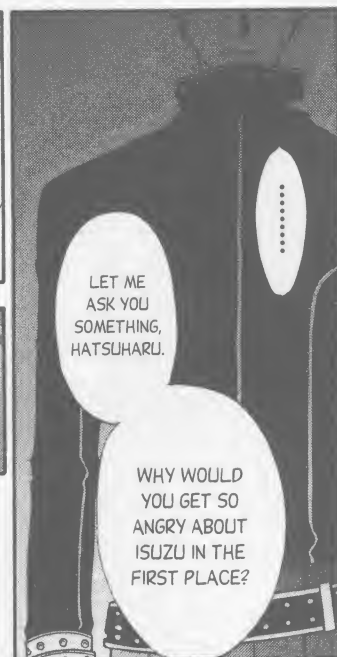
DO YOU  
FEEL  
SORRY  
FOR HER?

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN KIND  
TO HER.



DID YOU FEEL  
YOU COULDN'T  
LEAVE HER?

MAYBE  
IT WAS  
JUST  
PITY.



LET ME  
ASK YOU  
SOMETHING,  
HATSUHARU.

WHY WOULD  
YOU GET SO  
ANGRY ABOUT  
ISUZU IN THE  
FIRST PLACE?

Continued →

- Ever since Hiro saw his mother fall down a flight of stairs (from the very top) when he was in kindergarten, he's realized that he has to be strong and has been laboring in the shadows.
- His attitude toward Isuzu comes from knowing the circumstances-- because he happened to be there when it happened--but, more than that, seeing her hurt because of Akito makes him relate her situation to Kisa's.
- The person he looks up to most is Haru. (Haru has no idea.)
- The person he can't stand the most (excepting Akito) is actually Aaya. It's sad that I can't write about it in the main story. (laughs)
- He's currently worried because he can't find an opportunity to confess his love to Kisa. I feel like I've written almost everything about Hiro in the main story, so there's nothing for me to add...



INTERESTING.

AND YET YOU STILL TELL ME THINGS...

...LIKE "I LOVE RIN."



...THAT I HATE ISUZU.

EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW...

RIGHT?



YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM SAYING CRUEL THINGS.

YOU DO CRUEL THINGS.

IF YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR MASTER...

...YOU HAVE TO BE MORE--

SO YOU REALIZE ALL THAT, DO YOU?

...WERE ALWAYS COLD.

TO RIN. TO WOMEN.

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATE THEM.

TWICE AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE!

IF I WAS ALWAYS KIND TO HER...

THEN YOU...

...THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS!

WHERE DID YOU GET AN IDEA LIKE THAT?

YOU WERE COLD TO RIN.





YOU'RE SO OBSTINATE.

LOOK--  
I DON'T  
KNOW.

WHERE IS RIN  
RIGHT NOW?

WHERE IS  
SHE?!

WHERE  
DID YOU  
PUT HER?!

I JUST TOLD  
YOU--I DON'T  
KNOW!

GET HER  
OUT!

YOU ALWAYS  
MAKE  
EVERYTHING  
MY FAULT!

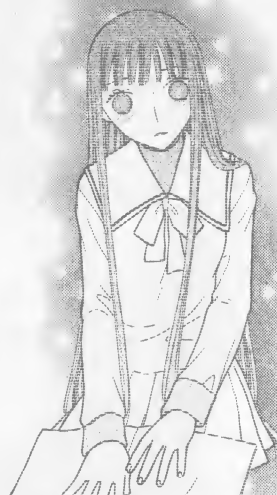
ISUZU...

*EVEN THOUGH...*

*... YOU  
KNEW.*

...WHERE  
IS SHE?

WHERE?



YOU TOLD  
ISUZU...

...THAT YOU  
LOVE HER,  
DIDN'T YOU?

"AKITO WILL  
GET MAD."

"NO."

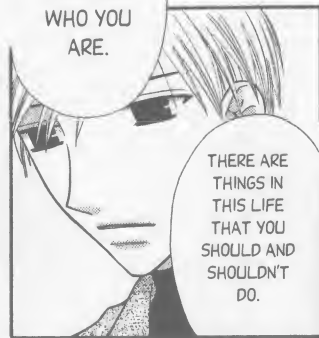
EVEN THOUGH  
YOU KNEW?







IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHO YOU  
ARE.



THERE ARE  
THINGS IN  
THIS LIFE  
THAT YOU  
SHOULD AND  
SHOULDN'T  
DO.

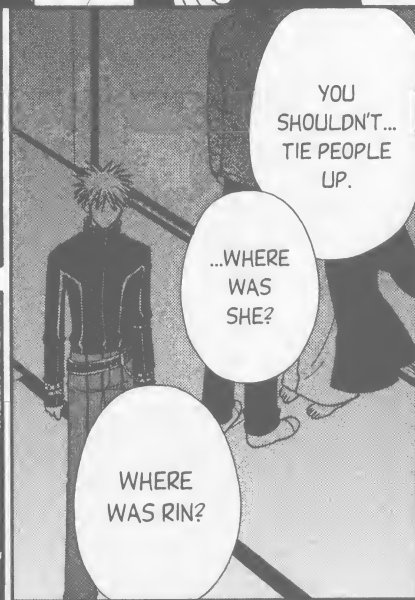


AKITO.

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
DO THINGS  
LIKE THAT.



SHE...



YOU  
SHOULDN'T...  
TIE PEOPLE  
UP.

...WHERE  
WAS  
SHE?

WHERE  
WAS RIN?



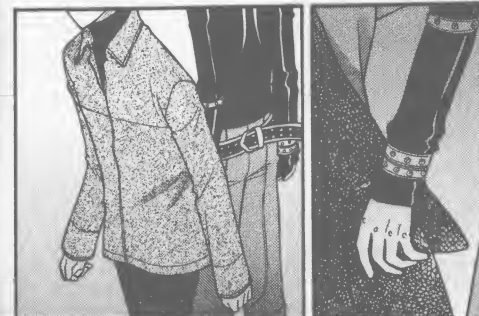
SHE WAS  
TAKEN  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL.



I WAS TOLD  
HER LIFE  
ISN'T IN  
DANGER.

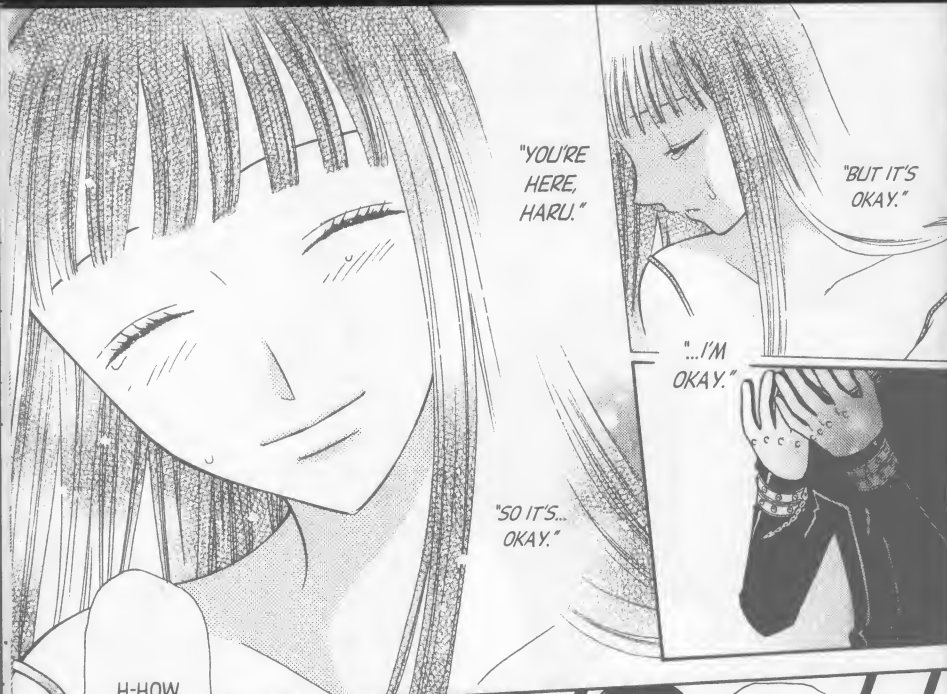
SHE WAS  
GOING IN  
AND OUT OF  
CONSCIOUS-  
NESS.

BUT SHE'S  
OKAY.



HATORI-  
NIISAN  
DROVE  
HER.

ALL  
RIGHT?



"YOU'RE  
HERE,  
HARU."

"BUT IT'S  
OKAY."

"...I'M  
OKAY."

"SO IT'S...  
OKAY."

H-HOW  
COULD YOU  
DO THIS?

WHY,  
KURENO?!

YOU  
JUST...

LISTEN.

...BETRAYING  
ME?!

NO, AKITO.  
THAT'S  
NOT IT.

ARE  
YOU...

HOW COULD  
YOU DO  
THIS?!



AKITO.

LISTEN  
TO ME.

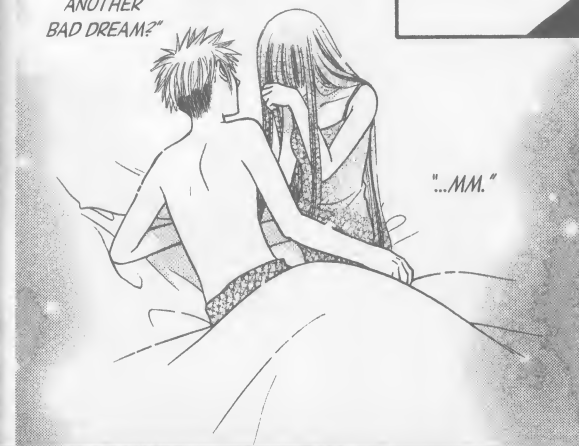
"RIN."



"RIN?"

"WHAT'S  
WRONG?"

"DID YOU  
HAVE  
ANOTHER  
BAD DREAM?"




"...MM."


SHE WAS IN  
THE CAT'S  
ISOLATED  
ROOM.

I UNDERSTAND  
SHE'S BEEN  
LOCKED UP  
INSIDE THERE.

FOR A  
WHILE  
NOW.



YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO  
PUT THE  
ROPE AROUND  
HER NECK!




YOU WERE  
LYING?! YOU  
LOCKED  
HER UP?!

HOW  
COULD YOU  
DO THAT?!

STOP  
SCREWING  
AROUND  
WITH ME!

HATSU-  
HARU...

WERE YOU  
TRYING TO  
KILL HER  
AGAIN?!



IT'S BECAUSE  
YOU CHOSE  
THAT DAMN  
WOMAN!

SO WHAT  
IF I AM?

NNGH.

HA  
SU  
HARU  
UR







"EVEN  
THOUGH  
" ...



YEAH.

"...  
YOU  
KNEW."

WITH NO  
ONE'S  
HELP...

I WANTED  
TO PROTECT  
HER FROM  
THOSE  
WORTHLESS  
ADULTS.

JUST  
MINE.



SO I  
WANTED  
RIN...

...TO  
WANT  
ME, TOO.

THEY  
DIDN'T EVEN  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR WHAT  
THEY DID.

THEY WERE  
ATTACKERS,  
BUT THEY  
ACTED LIKE  
THE VICTIMS.

I ALWAYS  
REALLY  
LIKED HER.

I COULDN'T  
FORGIVE  
THEM.

I COULDN'T  
FORGIVE THE  
ADULTS THAT  
TRAMPLED  
RIN.

THE WAY I  
FIRST FELT  
ABOUT HER.

IT'S...

...VAGUE  
NOW.

BUT I THINK  
I WAS  
ATTRACTED  
TO HER.

ALWAYS.





MORE  
THAN I  
WANTED  
TO  
PROTECT  
HER.

I WANTED  
HER ALL TO  
MYSELF.

I JUST  
WANTED TO  
MAKE HER  
MINE AND  
MINE ALONE.



THE  
REASON I  
HESITATED.

I JUST  
DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
NOTICE.

ISN'T  
THE  
TRUTH...

THE  
REASON  
I DIDN'T  
STEP IN.


WASN'T  
IT  
JUST...

...THAT  
I HAD A  
VAGUE  
IDEA...

...THE COST  
OF PUTTING  
MY WANTS  
BEFORE  
ANYTHING  
ELSE?

...THAT  
I WAS  
AFRAID TO  
REALIZE...

...  
OF WHY  
SHE GOT  
HURT SO  
BADLY?



IN A  
CORNER  
OF MY  
BRAIN.

I DID  
KNOW.

I  
KNEW.



I DID  
KNOW.

AN  
ALARM  
WAS  
GOING  
OFF...

...IN A  
CORNER  
OF MY  
BRAIN.

I KNEW  
WHERE  
AKITO  
WOULD  
DIRECT...

IT  
TOLD  
ME  
THAT.

...HIS  
ATTACH-  
MENT,  
HIS RAGE.

THIS MIGHT  
BE PUTTING A  
ROPE AROUND  
RIN'S NECK.



I DID  
KNOW.

BUT I...

...I...

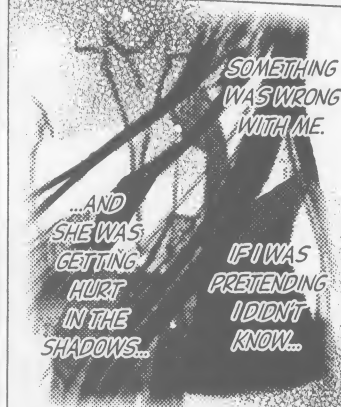


...I  
WANTED  
TO HAVE  
HER.

IT WAS  
WORTHLESS.

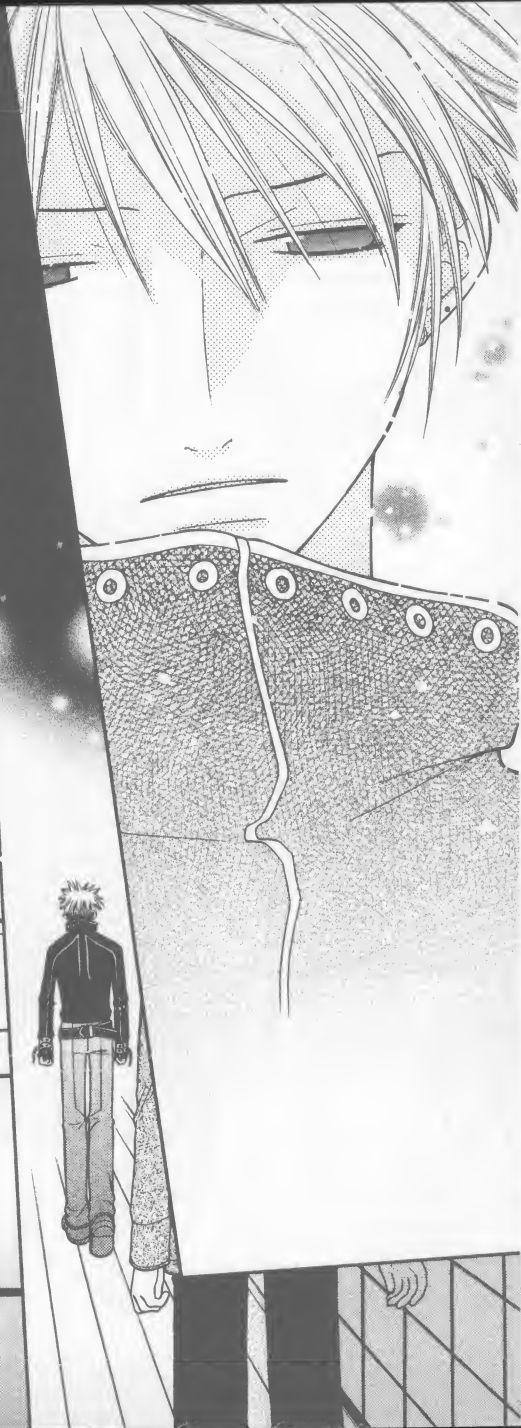
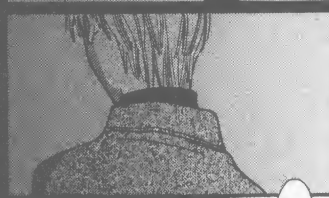
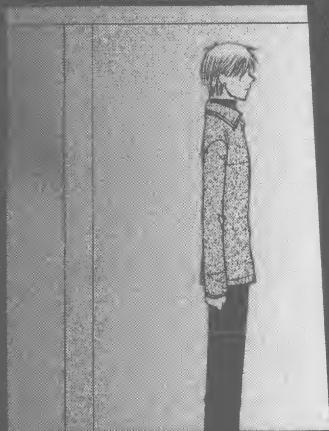


I'M...  
...JUST  
LIKE  
THOSE  
ADULTS.









"HARU."

YOUR NAME  
WAS THE  
FIRST WORD  
THAT CAME  
OUT OF HER  
MOUTH.

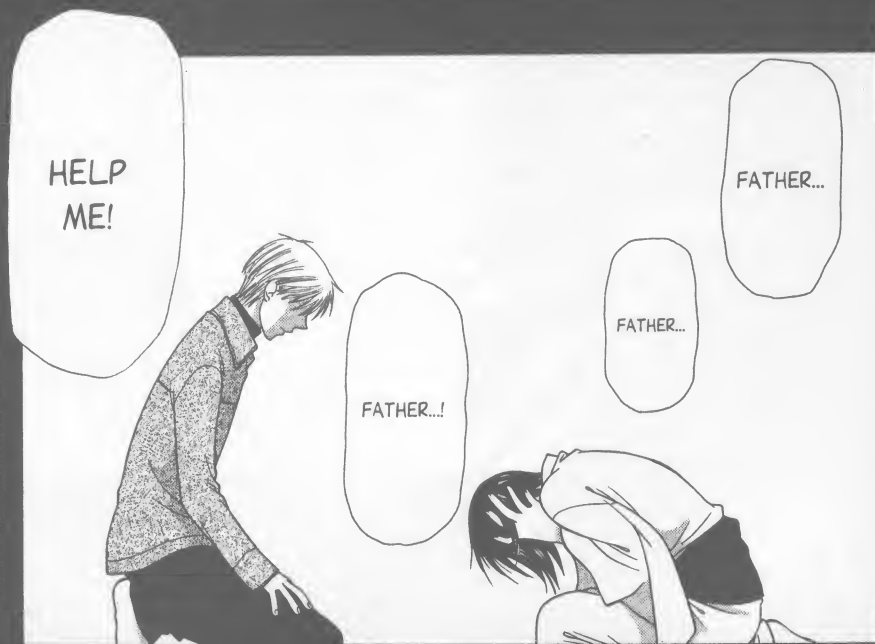


"HARU..."



DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHY I  
THINK  
THAT?





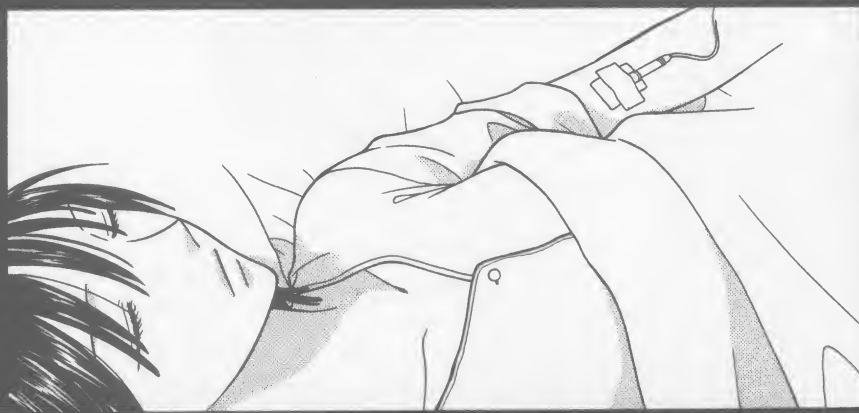
HELP  
ME!

FATHER...

FATHER...

FATHER...!

HELP  
ME.



...IT'S NOT  
THAT WE  
WANT TO  
BETRAY  
YOU.

BUT  
EVERYONE,  
SOMEDAY--

Wham

WHY  
ARE YOU  
BETRAYING  
ME?!

WH-  
WHY?

WHY DOES  
EVERYONE...

...TRY TO  
BETRAY  
ME...?

WHY?!  
WHY?!

I WAS  
BORN TO  
BE LOVED!

...HE  
TOLD  
ME.

THAT'S  
WHAT...

THAT'S  
WHAT...

EVERYONE  
WAS  
WAITING  
FOR ME!



## Chapter 106





BUT...BACK  
WHERE?

Knock  
Knock

HATSUHARU.

HATSUHARU,  
ARE YOU  
AWAKE?

YOU  
HAVE A  
PHONE  
CALL.

IT'S  
HATORI-  
SAN.

HATSUHARU?

AREN'T  
YOU  
THERE?

I WANT  
TO GO  
BACK.

I HAVE  
TO GO  
BACK.

I'LL  
GO  
BACK.

ISUZU  
DISAPPEARED?

DID I  
DREAM  
THAT  
I WAS  
THERE?

AM I  
DREAMING  
THAT I'M  
HERE?

I DON'T  
KNOW.

IN THE  
CAT'S  
ROOM.

A ROOM  
AS  
QUIET...

...AS THE  
EDGE  
OF THE  
WORLD.

I WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE IN  
THERE.

I WOKE  
UP IN THE  
HOSPITAL.

WHAT  
A BAD...

DOCTOR!  
SOHMA-  
SAN IS--

...DREAM.

SOHMA-  
SAN?

WAS IT A  
DREAM?



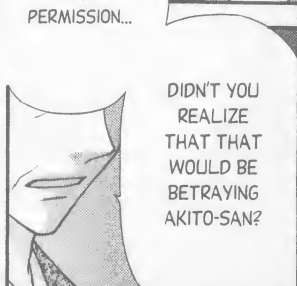
The one who was finished right after the main characters (Tohru, Yuki, Kyo, and Shigure):

**Kisa.** ☆☆☆

- With her father and mother, Kisa is in a family of three.
- She's currently a second-year in middle school. Kisa's gotten bigger, too.
- I guess I don't have much to add about Kisa anymore, either... She's lucky to be surrounded by her "big brothers." (In my very personal opinion.) The one she gets along with best is, of course, Hiro. She also gets along with Kagura.
- She's in competition for the first or second most beautiful character in *Furuba*. I kinda designed her that way. (This is all just "inside the world of *Furuba*.")
- ...I mean, like when I'm drawing the manuscript, I think of things like, "Oh yeah, it was supposed to be like this," and forget to draw her that way. (Write yourself a note...)



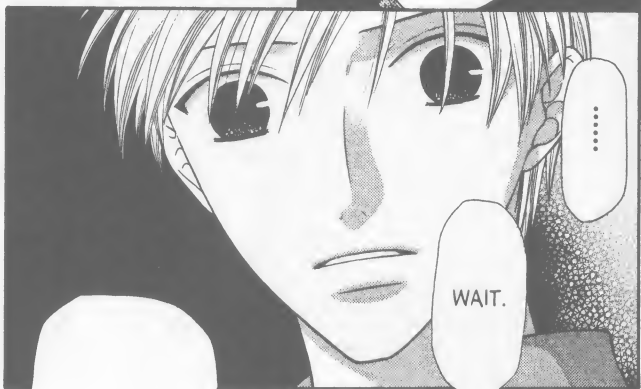
TAKING HER  
OUT OF THERE  
WITHOUT  
PERMISSION...



DIDN'T YOU  
REALIZE  
THAT THAT  
WOULD BE  
BETRAYING  
AKITO-SAN?



WHY DID  
YOU DO  
SUCH A  
THING?



WAIT.



YOU KNEW  
EVERYTHING?



UM...

HOW  
WAS  
AKITO  
DOING?



HE SAYS  
HE DOESN'T  
WANT TO  
SEE ANYONE  
RIGHT NOW.

IT SEEMS  
HE CAN'T  
SWALLOW  
FOOD  
BECAUSE  
HIS HEART  
IS IN PAIN.



I NEED  
SOME  
PLACE...

...THAT'S  
NOT  
HERE.



THAT  
AWFUL...

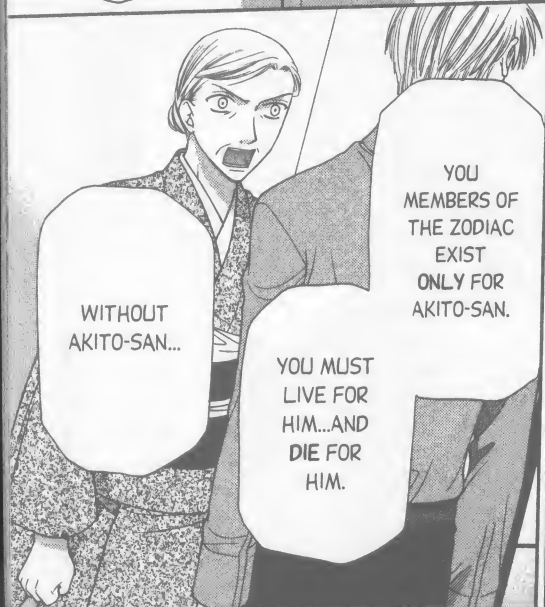
DISGRACEFUL...

SURELY  
YOU DON'T  
THINK THAT  
THAT GIRL  
SHOULD  
WIN?!

...WHORE!

YOU'RE A  
MEMBER OF  
THE ZODIAC--  
ONE WHO WAS  
BORN AND LIVES  
FOR AKITO-SAN.  
HOW DARE  
YOU BETRAY  
HIM!

WHERE  
DO YOUR  
LOYALTIES  
LIE?



WITHOUT  
AKITO-SAN...

YOU MUST  
LIVE FOR  
HIM...AND  
DIE FOR  
HIM.

YOU  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC  
EXIST  
ONLY FOR  
AKITO-SAN.



"THAT'S  
WHAT..."



"THAT'S  
WHAT..."

"...HE  
TOLD  
ME."

YOU'RE  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING  
THINGS,  
KURENO-  
SAN.



...THAT I  
SHOULD  
HAVE LEFT  
HER LIKE  
THAT?

ARE YOU  
SAYING...

TO THINK  
SHE WOULD  
TALK SO  
EASILY.

WE REALLY  
CAN'T PUT  
OUR TRUST IN  
PEOPLE WHO  
HAVEN'T BEEN  
WITH THE  
SOHMA LONG.

HONESTLY.

AND THAT  
GIRL IS  
JUST AS  
USELESS.



IF THAT  
WAS WHAT  
AKITO-SAN  
WISHED.



YOU ARE  
THE ONE  
WHO'S  
WRONG.

YOU'RE  
WRONG.

NO!

...NO.

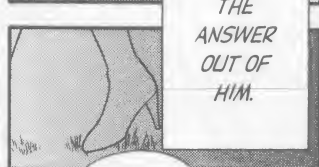




I  
WANTED  
TO ASK  
HIM.



I WANTED  
TO GRAB  
HIM BY THE  
COLLAR...



...AND  
BEAT  
THE  
ANSWER  
OUT OF  
HIM.



YOU'RE A  
BAD GIRL,  
ISUZU-  
CHAN.



THAT  
GIRL IS SO  
SPACEY...



HE  
PROBABLY  
THOUGHT  
IT DIDN'T  
MATTER  
WHAT  
ANYONE SAID  
TO HER.



HE SAID  
WHAT HE  
HAD TO SAY  
AND THEN  
HE JUST...  
LEFT.



THAT WAS  
IT, RIGHT?



SHE  
WAS  
CRYING.

I GOT  
ANGRY.



AND THEN I  
FOLLOWED  
HIM, BUT IT  
DIDN'T DO  
ANY GOOD.



THAT  
MADE  
ME EVEN  
ANGRIER.



I'M SURE HE  
TOLD HER  
SOMETHING HE  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE.



...YOU WOULD  
ALL BE  
MONSTERS  
LIKE THAT  
WRETCHED  
CAT!



KURENO.



BECAUSE  
...

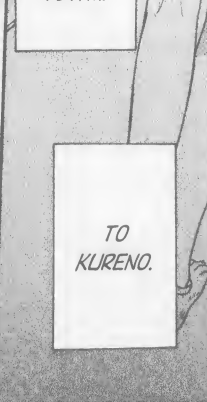


...I SAW  
THEM  
THAT  
DAY.



RIGHT.

I WANTED  
TO TALK  
TO HIM.



TO  
KURENO.



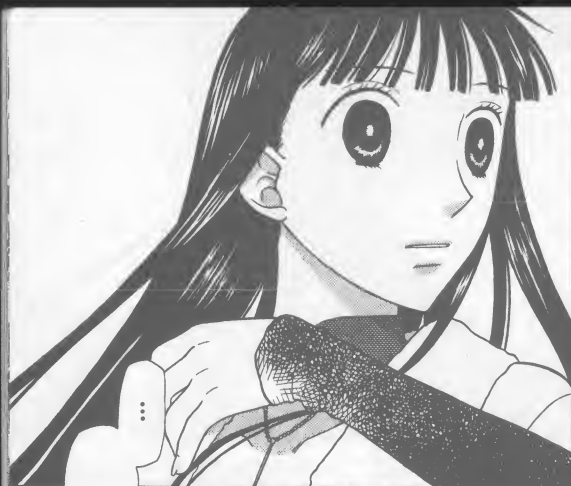
I ALMOST  
THINK...

...KURENO  
CAME  
TO THAT  
ROOM.



I  
DREAMED...

...THAT  
HE  
CARRIED  
ME.



I WANT...



...TO SEE  
KURENO.



REN-SAN.

TO  
BREAK  
THE  
ZODIAC  
CURSE?

DO YOU  
KNOW...

...A  
WAY?

"IT'S SO  
WONDERFULLY  
HAPPY."



"YOU HAVE  
SUCH A  
HAPPY  
HOME."

"DON'T  
YOU,  
ISUZU-  
CHAN?"



DID YOU  
SNEAK  
ON YOUR  
TIPPY-  
TOES...

...ALL THE  
WAY IN  
HERE?



I KNOW.

YOU'VE BEEN  
LOOKING FOR  
SOMETHING  
FOR A LONG  
TIME.

HAVEN'T  
YOU,  
ISUZU-  
CHAN?

I  
KNOW.



MAYBE  
I CAN  
HELP  
YOU.

I  
WONDER...



HIDDEN...

I CAN'T  
GET NEAR  
THE  
PLACE.

THEY  
KEEP VERY  
STRICT  
WATCH  
OVER ME.

BUT YOU,  
ISUZU-CHAN,  
MIGHT HAVE  
A CHANCE.

...WHAT?

KNOWING  
HIM...

HE COULDN'T  
PUT IT IN  
A CORNER  
OR WHERE  
SOMEONE  
COULD  
SEE IT.

HE  
WOULD  
HAVE  
HIDDEN IT.

BEHIND  
A DOOR,  
MAYBE.

IT'S IN  
AKITO'S  
ROOM.



ALL  
RIGHT?

...THEN  
I'LL TELL  
YOU.

I WANT  
SOMETHING  
THAT'S  
RIGHTFULLY  
MINE.

IT'S...

IF YOU  
GRANT  
MY  
WISH...

DO  
YOU--?

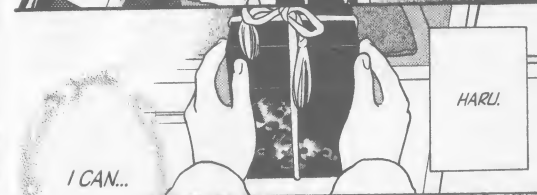




...SHE'LL  
TELL ME  
HOW TO  
BREAK  
THE  
CURSE.

THIS  
IS IT.

IF I  
GIVE  
IT TO  
HER...

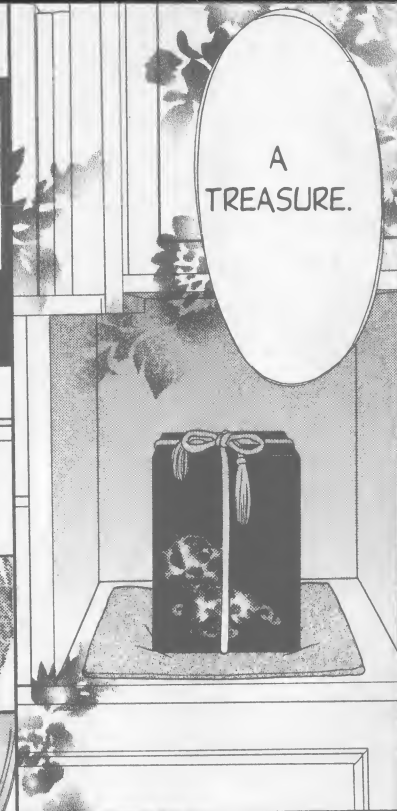


HARU.

I CAN...



I CAN  
FREE  
YOU,  
HARU.



A  
TREASURE.

DON'T  
DO IT.

I'LL  
STAY  
HERE.

STOP.

I'LL STAY  
HERE  
FOR THE  
REST OF  
MY LIFE.

HARU...

I'M  
SORRY.

IT WAS MY  
CHANCE TO  
FIND OUT HOW  
TO BREAK  
THE CURSE.

DO YOU  
WANT TO  
TEST  
ME?

DO YOU  
THINK I'M  
BLUFFING?

MAMA  
WAS..?

AKITO  
WAS  
MAD?

THEY  
WERE  
REALLY  
MAD.

AKITO  
WAS  
LIKE...

...  
MAMA.

I'M  
SCARED.

I DON'T  
EVER  
WANT TO  
SEE YOUR  
FACE  
AGAIN.

OH...

I GET  
IT.

I KNOW.

WHEN  
MAMA  
GOT  
MAD.

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
PREFER?  
GOING  
"OUTSIDE"...

...OR  
HATSUHARU'S  
EYES BEING  
GOUGED OUT?

...DO A  
SINGLE  
THING  
RIGHT.

I CAN'T...

BUT IT  
WAS ALL  
WORTHLESS.  
I'M  
WORTHLESS.



WORTHLESS  
CHILDREN  
REALLY  
ARE JUST  
WORTHLESS.

BUT I  
THOUGHT  
SHE MIGHT  
BE A LITTLE  
MORE  
USEFUL.

I ALWAYS  
DID DESPISE  
THAT GIRL.

INSTINCTIVELY,  
YOU KNOW?

I KNEW  
IT.



...SOMEONE  
LIKE ME.

YOU REALLY  
DON'T NEED...

HM?

HOW TO  
BREAK THE  
CURSE, I  
MEAN.

BUT  
DO YOU  
REALLY  
KNOW,  
MADAM?

REALLY,  
NOW.

HOW COULD  
I POSSIBLY  
KNOW  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?

OH,  
MY.

IS THAT  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO ISUZU-  
CHAN?

IT'S NO WONDER  
THERE'S NO  
SIGN THAT MY  
WISH WILL  
BE GRANTED.





DAMMIT.



I AM  
WORTHLESS.

...



I WISH.

I COULD'VE  
DREAMT  
ABOUT  
CRYING...

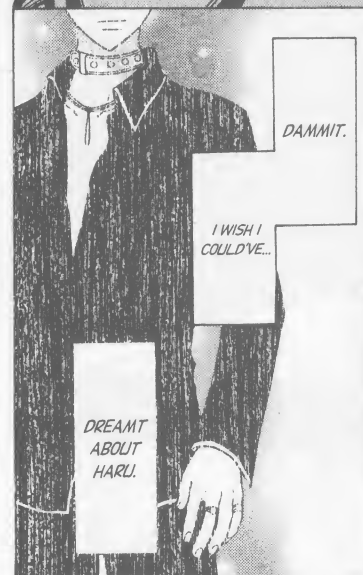
...TO KIND,  
GENTLE  
HARU.



I  
REALLY...

...WAS  
HERE.

WAIT.



DAMMIT.

I WISH I  
COULD'VE...

DREAMT  
ABOUT  
HARU.



WERE THEY  
THE DREAM?

WERE KURENO  
AND THE  
HOSPITAL  
A DREAM?





I WISH I  
COULD'VE  
GONE BACK.

WOW.

WHAT A  
WONDERFUL  
DREAM...







I FIGURED  
THAT I'M  
WORTHLESS...

I KNOW  
I'M A  
PUNK KID.

I DIDN'T  
REALIZE  
WHEN  
YOU WERE  
HURTING  
ALONE, RIN.

NO.

I CAN  
WALK!

HARU!

W-wait!



...BUT I'M  
ALSO NOT  
AS MUCH OF  
A KID AS  
I USED  
TO BE.

I'VE GROWN UP  
ENOUGH THAT  
I CAN CARRY  
YOU MYSELF.

RIN...



THIS ISN'T  
A DREAM.

I'M AMAZED  
YOU COULD  
EVEN WALK  
THIS FAR.

I LOOKED  
EVERYWHERE  
FOR YOU.

EVERYONE'S  
WORRIED.

IN YOUR  
CONDITION  
AND ALL.



THE END...



YEAH?

HA...

RU...

HA...

...OF A  
LONG  
JOURNEY.



HARU...

YEAH?



I'M...  
HOME.



OKAY?

YOU'RE  
NOT A  
BURDEN.

LOOK.

THAT'S  
WHY I  
WON'T  
GIVE UP  
ON YOU.

JUST WALK TO  
THE PLACES YOU  
CAN WALK TO  
BY YOURSELF...

...AND LET  
YOURSELF BE  
CARRIED WHEN  
YOU CAN'T.

I'D  
RATHER  
CARRY  
YOU.

YOU'RE  
NOT A  
BURDEN.



Chapter 107



WELCOME  
HOME.





HOW LONG  
ARE YOU  
GONNA SIT  
IN FRONT OF  
ME, SOBBING  
YOUR LITTLE  
EYES OUT?!

DON'T  
CRY!

Y-YES!

It's  
depressing!

She's  
shy...

HARU,  
PLEASE.  
STARING TOO  
MUCH WILL  
JUST PUT  
PRESSURE  
ON HER.

YES!

F-  
friend...

IT'S UNUSUAL  
FOR ISUZU  
TO SPEAK AT  
QUITE THAT  
VOLUME.

MAYBE  
SHE'S IN  
HIGH SPIRITS  
BECAUSE HER  
FRIEND CAME  
TO SEE HER?

SHISHOU-  
SAN.





"A WAY...  
TO BREAK  
THE  
CURSE."

It's  
very  
warm  
today!

"I WONDER  
IF IT  
REALLY...  
DOESN'T  
EXIST."

"TO  
BREAK  
THE  
ZODIAC  
CURSE?"

"REN-SAN."

"DO YOU  
KNOW A  
WAY?"

ALL  
RIGHT.



NOW, LIKE  
THIS...

BUT JUST  
HAVING  
HER HERE.

Then  
would  
you like  
to walk  
through  
the  
garden?



We  
should  
stop her!

BUT  
THAT'S  
NOT--

Yeah.

THEY  
SEEM  
TO GET  
ALONG.

ISUZU-SAN  
CAME BACK.

SHE WON'T  
TELL  
ME ANY  
DETAILS...

ALTHOUGH  
SHE DID SAY  
SHE WAS IN  
A HOSPITAL  
FAR AWAY.

...I JUST CUT  
IT BECAUSE  
IT WAS  
ANNOYING.

QUIT  
STARING  
AT IT.

Would  
you like  
some  
mechi?

No,  
thanks.



I DON'T  
WANNA  
MAKE HER  
DEAL WITH  
HIM, EITHER.

AND I...



THERE WAS  
NO PLACE FOR  
ME TO STEP  
IN AND CHEER  
YOU UP.

YOU  
WERE  
QUICK TO  
DECIDE  
ALL  
THIS.



MM.

YOU  
KNOW,  
HARU...

YOU'RE  
REALLY  
SOME-  
THING.



AND  
FORGET  
AKITO.

WE DON'T  
HAVE TO SAY  
ANYTHING  
ELSE TO HIM,  
EITHER.

SHE'S  
SCARED OF  
GETTING  
MIXED UP  
WITH HIM  
AGAIN.



SHE DOES  
SEEM  
TO HATE  
HOSPITALS  
AND THE  
MAIN ESTATE.

SO SHE CAN  
RECUPERATE  
HERE WITH  
YOU FOR A  
BIT, SHIHAN?

OF  
COURSE.

...IF WE FORCED  
HER TO GO  
BACK, SHE  
MIGHT JUST  
DITCH AGAIN.

WE'LL KEEP  
HER HERE  
FOR NOW.

SHE DOESN'T  
WANT HONDA-  
SAN TO HEAR  
THINGS SHE  
DOESN'T  
HAVE TO.

SHE SAID  
SHE  
DOESN'T  
WANT  
US...

...TO TELL  
HONDA-  
SAN.

SHE  
WAS...

LOCKED  
UP, RIGHT?

BY  
AKITO.

AND HER  
HAIR...





I SEE.



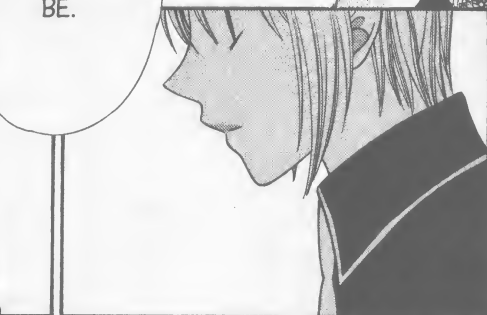
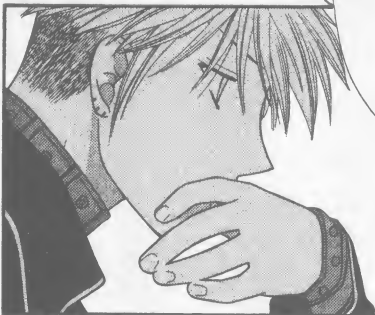
"I KNOW."



THE PLACE...



...WHERE KYO WILL BE.



"SHI-SHOU"

"..."



I ALREADY SHOW HER WITH MY ATTITUDE.

Is that right? Oh, thank you for the food.

By the way, Hatsu-haru. May I ask something?

PLEASE SAVE THOSE LINES FOR RIN.



IT'S OKAY... I LOVE YOU.



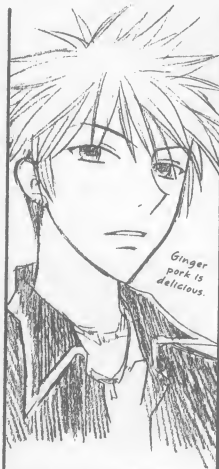
WHERE EXACTLY...

...WAS ISUZU LOCKED AWAY?



IN THE CAT'S...





Ginger  
pork is  
delicious.

Has a ton of romance,  
even more than the  
main characters (or,  
rather, regardless of  
them):

Hatsuharu. 

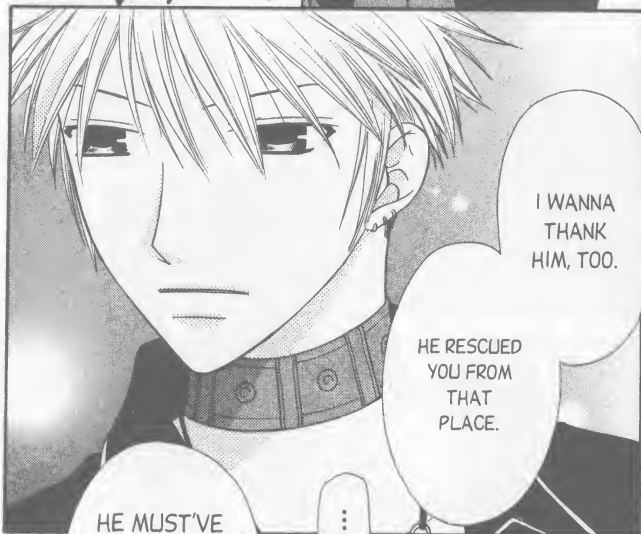
- With his father and mother, Haru's in a family of three.
- Again, there's nothing really left to add about Haru.
- And to try and explain him, when he lives with his own unique set of values...maybe that would just be meaningless? (laughs)
- He likes to make his own accessories. It's a trait that he was designed with. The various accessories Haru and Rin wear were actually handmade by Haru.
- It's a trait that I couldn't bring up... (There are mountains of those.)
- The Indiscernible (oi) pattern on his left arm is tentatively a tattoo.
- I often forget to draw it...

AND  
KURENO.

ACK--IT'S  
NOTHING  
LIKE THAT!

NOW EVEN RIN  
CAN KNOW THE  
WARMTH OF  
FRIENDSHIP.

YOU'RE  
STUBBORN  
ABOUT THE  
WEIRDEST  
THINGS, HARU!

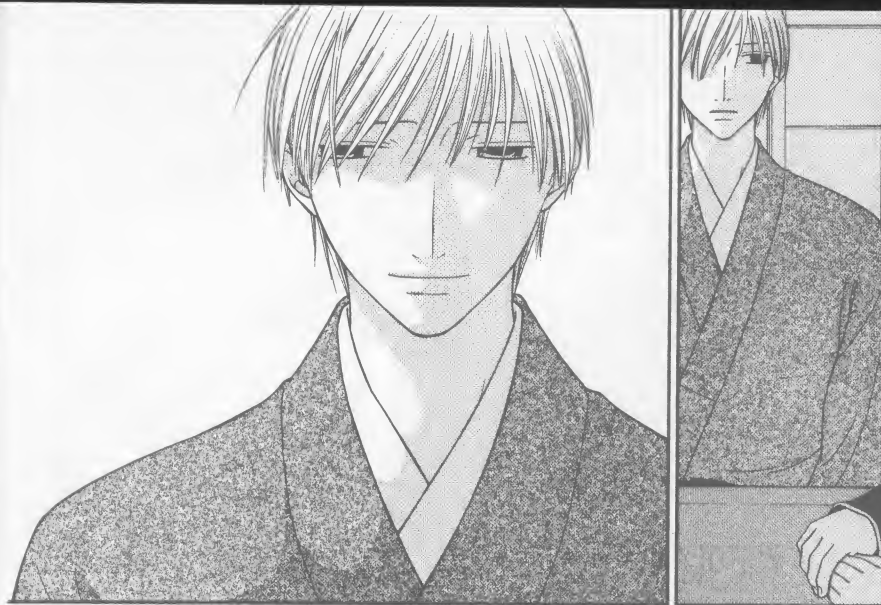


I WANNA  
THANK  
HIM, TOO.

HE RESCUED  
YOU FROM  
THAT  
PLACE.

HE MUST'VE  
KNOWN  
THAT AKITO  
WOULD  
ATTACK  
HIM FOR IT.

Person who  
thought,  
rather than  
apologize,  
that she'd  
like to hit  
him.



HONDA-  
SAN WAS  
WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU.

I DIDN'T  
ASK  
THEM TO.

MORE  
THAN ANY  
OF THE  
SOHMAS.

AMAZING,  
HUH?



OKAY.

IT'S NICE  
THAT  
EVERYONE  
CAME TO  
SEE YOU  
TODAY, HUH?

I'LL  
SEE YOU  
TOMOR-  
ROW.

BYE.



NO  
MATTER  
THE  
REASON.

JUST  
DON'T.

OKAY?

I DUNNO.

IF HE  
HADN'T  
SAID  
THAT TO  
ME...

"DON'T GO,  
HATSU HARU!"

"GO, AND  
DON'T  
COME  
BACK."

AND...



RIN...

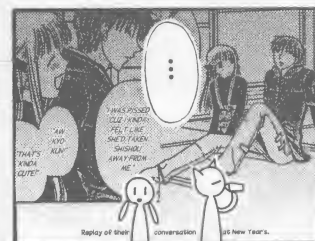
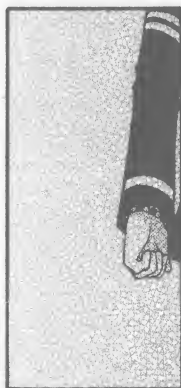
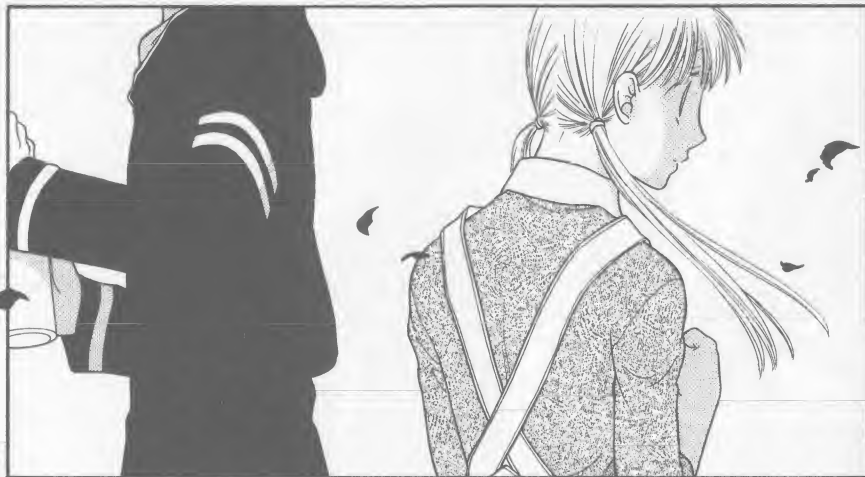
HEY.

DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
RECKLESS  
ON YOUR OWN  
ANYMORE.

MAYBE IT  
WOULD'VE  
ENDED...

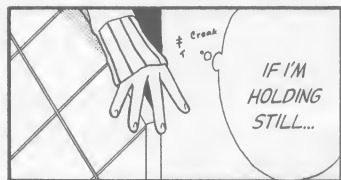
...WITH  
ME  
LETTING  
RIN GO.







IF YOU  
DON'T TAKE  
IT EASY, I'M  
TELLING.



IF I'M  
HOLDING  
STILL...



HEY,  
KUNIMITSU!

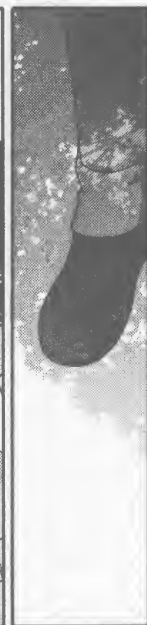
LEMME  
DO THE  
CLEANING.

Agh!  
WHAT'RE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
HATORI-SAN JUST  
TOLD YOU THAT  
YOU STILL NEED  
TO LIE DOWN.



GOOD  
LORD.

THAT  
WAS A  
DISASTER.



...MY  
FEELINGS  
GET ANTSY.

I  
MEAN...

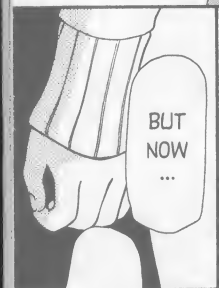
WHAT  
DO I DO  
NOW?





SHE WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO TELL  
ME.

REN-  
SAN  
WAS--



BUT  
NOW  
...



I...

*"JUST  
DON'T."*



REN-SAN?

YEAH. SHE  
PROMISED.

AS LONG AS  
I DID WHAT  
SHE ASKED  
ME TO.



I  
BROUGHT  
A GIFT.



IT  
JUST...  
WENT  
BAD.

I WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO LEARN  
A WAY.



LATER,  
TOHRU.



GOODBYE,  
TOHRU-  
KUN.



Say  
hello to  
Father  
for me.

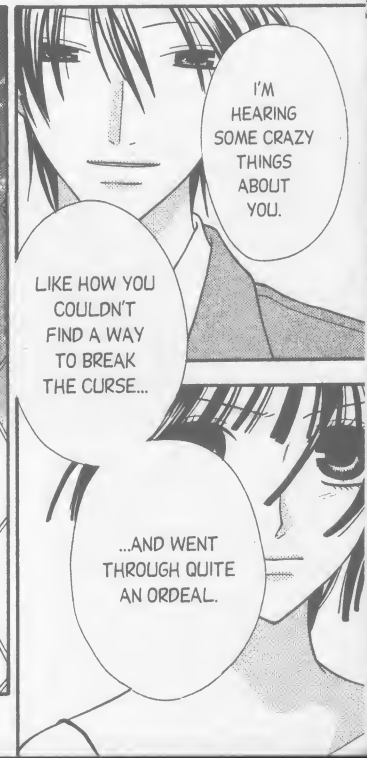
YES!  
SEE YOU  
TOMORROW!

\*Father = Shishou



I GUESS  
YOU  
LEARNED  
THE HARD  
WAY.

YOU  
WERE  
RASH AND  
BLIND.



I'M  
HEARING  
SOME CRAZY  
THINGS  
ABOUT  
YOU.

LIKE HOW YOU  
COULDN'T  
FIND A WAY  
TO BREAK  
THE CURSE...

...AND WENT  
THROUGH QUITE  
AN ORDEAL.



I DIDN'T JUST  
COME HERE  
TODAY TO  
GIVE YOU A  
HARD TIME.

YOUR  
EFFORTS  
PROVED  
FRUITLESS,  
BUT YOU  
TRIED YOUR  
BEST.

I CAN  
SYMPATHIZE  
WITH THAT.  
SO I THOUGHT  
I'D TELL YOU  
SOMETHING  
GOOD.



...REALLY  
GOOD  
FRIENDS.



RIN.



LISTEN.

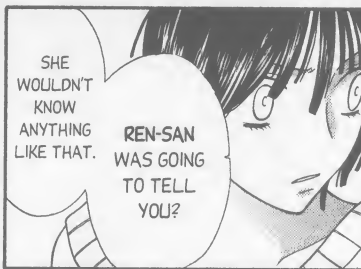
IT'S  
ABOUT...

...OUR  
CURSE.



RELAX. JUST  
ASKING ME ISN'T  
ANY REASON  
TO GET YOUR  
GUARD UP, HM?

WHAT  
...?



SHE  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT.

REN-SAN  
WAS GOING  
TO TELL  
YOU?



SHE HAS  
THAT  
PARENT-  
CHILD  
CONFLICT  
WITH  
AKITO-SAN  
AND ALL.

SHE  
PULLED  
A FAST  
ONE ON  
YOU.

AND WAS  
USING YOU,  
PROBABLY.



OH,  
PLEASE.

SHE WAS  
LYING  
THROUGH  
HER TEETH.



YOU'RE  
LYING.

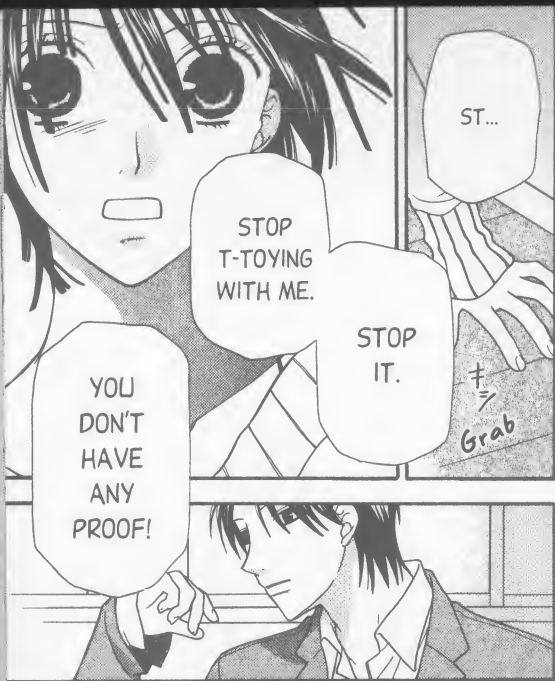


REALLY  
GOOD  
FRIENDS.

WE'RE  
GOOD  
FRIENDS.

BUT I DO  
KNOW  
REN-SAN  
BETTER  
THAN  
YOU DO.

YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BELIEVE  
ME.



THE DAY  
WE'RE FREE  
WILL COME  
EVENTUALLY.

COME  
ON.

WE ARE  
THE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC...

...WHO  
WERE  
INVITED TO  
THE FINAL  
BANQUET.



YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BE SO  
DESPERATE.

IT DOES  
BREAK.

EVEN IF  
YOU LEAVE  
IT ALONE...

BELIEVE  
ME.

IT'S  
ALREADY  
STARTING  
TO FALL  
APART.

I  
MEAN...

...THAT  
PROMISE, THAT  
BOND, IS FROM  
A LONG, LONG  
TIME AGO.



...IT'LL HAPPEN  
EVENTUALLY.

IT BEATS  
BEING THIS  
WAY FOR  
FOREVER,  
DAMMIT!

EVENTUALLY,  
SOMEDAY,  
WHATEVER!

IF IT WILL  
BREAK, AND  
WE'LL BE  
FREE, THEN  
THAT'S GOOD  
ENOUGH  
FOR ME!

BUT  
THAT'S  
NO  
GOOD!

IF IT'S  
NOT BY  
THEN...

IF IT'S NOT  
BY THEN,  
THEN THAT'S  
NO GOOD!

IT HAS TO  
BE BROKEN  
BEFORE NEXT  
SPRING!

WHAT?  
NO  
GOOD?

IF HE'S  
TELLING  
THE  
TRUTH,  
THEN--

BUT IT'S ONLY  
"EVENTUALLY"!

THE  
SPRING...

IS IT...

IN A  
FEW  
YEARS?

IN A FEW  
DECADES?

THAT'S...

...NO  
GOOD.

WHEN...

...IS  
"EVENTUALLY"?





OF ALL  
PEOPLE...?

KYO?



"SO SHISHOU  
WON'T GET  
LONELY DOWN  
THE LINE."

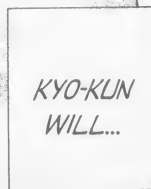
"Y'KNOW?"



KYO-  
KUN.



KYO-KUN...!



KYO-KUN  
WILL...



AND  
LONELY.



IT'S  
SO  
SAD.

I'M  
SO...  
SAD.



HAS HE  
ALREADY  
DECIDED...

DID HE  
SAY THOSE  
WORDS...

EVEN UN-  
CONSCIOUS-  
LY...

IF HE'D  
CONTINUED  
WITH 'EVEN  
WHEN  
I'M NOT  
AROUND'...

...BECAUSE  
HIS HEART...

...THAT  
HE'LL  
BE  
GOING  
AWAY?

...HAS  
ALREADY  
GONE?

IF HE...

IT'S  
SO...  
SAD.

*I feel so  
grateful!*

㊦

We are  
grateful.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,  
Mother-sama, Editor-sama.

And everyone who reads  
and supports this manga.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a pot ...!

高屋 奈月でした。  
Natsuki Takaya.

\*Or "nabe," short for "Manabe (Kakeru)"



*DON'T  
GO!...*

*To Be Continued in Volume 19...*



Next time in...



### Cat Got Your Tongue?

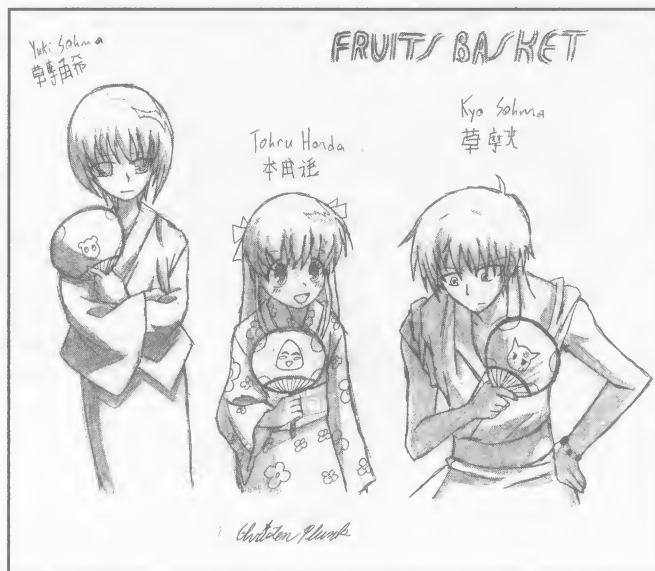
As the *Fruits Basket* saga continues, the relationship between Tohru and Kyo becomes increasingly complicated, especially since most of the members of the Zodiac seem to look down on him. Tohru comes to the realization that if she wants to save Kyo, she'll have to create some sort of trigger to break his curse. Meanwhile, poor Yuki flees the house...because he can't stand watching Tohru and Kyo together!

**Fruits Basket Volume 19**  
Available March 2008



Christen Plunk  
Age 15  
Bolivar, TN

Christen, I absolutely love the fans in your picture! That really sold it for me. Also, Yuki looks soooo appropriately androgynous and Kyo seems totally uncomfortable. Nice!



Jessica Huang  
Age 23  
Olathe, KS

I love seeing people draw Furuba plushies! These are all so perfect--especially Ritsui!

# Fans Basket

This volume of Fruits Basket is dedicated to intern extraordinaire Sarah Tangney! Sarah valiantly helped me go through piles and piles of Furuba fan mail. It's a miracle she wasn't sliced to shreds by paper cuts. Even though Fruits Basket fan mail duty is a dangerous task, I'm pretty sure it was one of her favorite chores; I'd often hear her laughing over crazy Furuba sketches. And now, with no further ado, let's all get a good chuckle out of Sarah's Fruits Basket drawing. Yup! She drew this on her last day, and it depicts the TOKYOPOP editorial staff as Furuba characters! I was honored to be Ayame! Thanks again for all your hard work, Sarah!

- Paul Morrissey, Editor



Sarah Tangney  
Age 21  
In the Hearts of  
T-POP Editorial

I guess Sarah's sketch is a bit of a staff in-joke. But trust me, it's REALLY funny! This made everyone's day, Sarah--even if Nikhil wasn't crazy about being the crossdressing Ritsui!

Sidney Shen  
Age 17  
Sydney, Australia

Sidney, your inks are amazing!  
What a fantastic piece of art!  
According to Sidney, in this  
picture, Momiji is dreaming of  
the concert he will one day hold  
in front of his entire family.



Christina Ngo  
Age 13  
Portland, OR

Check this out! Look  
closely at Tohru's  
dress. Christina  
actually used real  
tone. She cut it in  
the shape of Tohru's  
dress, and pasted it  
onto her art. That's  
the way they do it  
in Japan! Very nice!



Sylvia Martinez  
Age 14  
Mission Oaks, CA

Even though Sylvia is  
a rooster, Ritsu is her  
favorite character. It's  
pretty funny how you  
took Ritsu's apologetic  
nature to the extreme!

Diana Cuervo  
Age 17  
Houston, TX

Awwwww... This is such a  
gorgeous drawing, Diana!  
You certainly have your own  
style, which is awesome  
to see! There's so much to  
like here--Momitchi's and  
Tohru's socks, their wings,  
the wind blowing Tohru's  
ribbons. Awesome work!





Amy Lynn Hanson  
Age 17  
Tohatchi, NM



Thanks for this awesome picture of Akito, Amy! His  
(or is it her?) kimono looks fabulous!

Jazzy  
Age 12  
Charlestown, MA

Here's  
everyone's  
favorite Furuba  
trio! Excellent  
work, Jazzy!  
Don't stop  
drawing!



Zhe Zhu  
Age 19  
San Marcos, TX

Awwwww, this is  
such a sweet scene.  
I bet Tohru is really  
enjoying her dance!  
Yuki has never looked  
more like a prince!



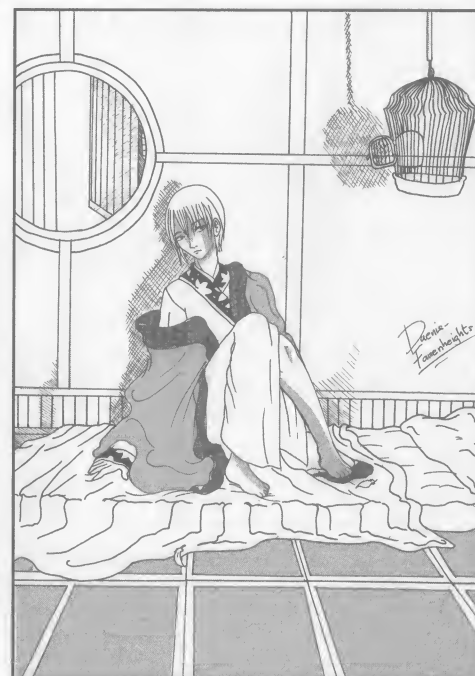
Breezy Ivey  
Age 14  
Rehobeth, AL

Breezy wants everyone to know that this is a picture of Yuki when he's a bit older. He looks more self-assured and confident!



Koneko  
Age 16  
Smithfield, UT

Nice ink work, Koneko. Akito looks appropriately menacing and godlike!



Daenis Forenheights  
Age 19  
Ireland

Here's another piece of art that used actual tones! I really like the empty birdcage... Your sympathy for Akito really shines through in this drawing, Daenis...



Nicole Stone  
Age 15  
Westborough, MA

I hardly ever get fan art of  
Hana and Uo! Thanks for  
sending this in, Nicole!



Jessica Michelle Fowler  
Age 16  
West Paducah, KY

Jessica does an excellent job of depicting Furuba's  
love triangle! I particularly like the cat's collar  
and wrist bands and the rat's karate gear!